

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

'Lost' actor gives character credit for fame

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Group takes in deployed owners' pets

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Volume 2, No.320 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2005

Marine Corps suicides up 29 percent in 2004

Spike in deaths likely linked to ops tempo, Hagee says Page 6

Praying for the pope

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Boys pray during a mass Friday at a church in Wadowice, Poland, the town where Pope John Paul II was born. The pope is breathing on his own and is not suffering from pneumonia, the Vatican said Friday, casting his condition in a positive light a day after he was rushed to a hospital for surgery to ease a breathing crisis.

AP

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Blake murder trial: The prosecution tried to bolster its murder case against Robert Blake by calling a police detective and the girlfriend of a key witness who claims the actor solicited him to kill his wife.

Detective Brian Tyndall testified Thursday that police determined Blake had bought a prepaid telephone calling card, which the prosecution claims was used to make the calls to hire a killer.

According to earlier testimony, the card was used under the belief that it would make the calls untraceable.

Tyndall was scheduled to resume his testimony Friday.

Blake, 71, is accused of murdering Bonny Lee Bakley on May 4, 2001. She was shot twice as she sat in a car near a restaurant where she and the former "Baretta" TV star had dinner.

Brain-damaged woman: An attorney for the parents of Terri Schiavo says Florida's social services agency is seeking a 60-day delay in the removal of the woman's feeding tube while it investigates new allegations of her abuse and neglect.

Matt Davis, with the law firm representing Bob and Mary Schindler, said Thursday the 11-page confidential document was shared with attorneys in the life-or-death legal battle between the Schindlers and their daughter's husband, Michael Schiavo. A spokesman for the Department of Children & Families declined comment.

Circuit Court Judge George Greer already was expected to rule Friday on whether to grant a longer stay in connection with other filings in the case involving the severely brain-damaged woman.

Olympic committee's N.Y. visit: The city rolled up its red carpet after four tazzle-dazzle days of wooing International Olympic Committee delegates, who were treated to jazz from Wynton Marsalis, dinner with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and spectacular views of snow-covered Central Park.

Now comes the hard part: waiting until July 6, when the IOC announces its winner from among five finalists to host the 2012 Games.

Although the 13-member IOC Evaluation Commission saw the city from center court at Madison Square Garden to centerfield at Yankee Stadium, New York's hopes could hinge on a proposed new stadium on Manhattan's West Side.

The commission held its one and only New York news conference before leaving, emphasizing the importance of the proposed \$1.7 billion facility.

San Diego mayoral race: Supporters of Donna Frye's write-in bid for mayor of San Diego on Thursday appointed a ruling that upheld Dick Murphy's election to a second term, keeping alive a bid to count thousands of disqualified ballots that likely would have tipped the contest to the city councilwoman.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Michael Brenner ruled Feb. 2 that the county registrar acted properly in refusing to count 5,531 ballots on which voters wrote Frye's name but failed to darken the adjoining bubble. The registrar said state law required that the bubbles be filled.

Murphy, a Republican, defeated Frye, a Democrat, by 2,108 votes in a three-way race and was sworn into office Dec. 8 after a series of legal challenges.

California firebombings: A man was indicted on federal arson charges Thursday involving firebombings linked to an eco-terror group that targeted residential and commercial construction sites.

Ryan D. Lewis faces five counts of arson and three counts of attempted arson for his alleged involvement in incidents this winter in three communities east of Sacramento.



Serious rape suspect: Brent I. Brents, 35, a convicted child molester who is a suspect in a series of rapes in a city neighborhood in Denver, sits shackled in the back of a police car as he is driven into the Denver City Jail Feb. 19. Prosecutors filed 80 felony charges Thursday against Brents. He is suspected of sexually assaulting five women and two girls, most of them within a week, earlier this month. He faces sexual assault, attempted first-degree murder and other charges.

Lewis, 21, of Newcastles, admitted taking part in some of the crimes, according to an FBI affidavit.

Falwell in hospital: The Rev. Jerry Falwell could be released from a hospital this weekend or early next week, his son said Thursday.

Falwell, 71, checked into Lynchburg General Hospital in Virginia on Sunday suffering from congestion. Doctors confirmed Wednesday he had pneumonia.

Jerry Falwell Jr. said Thursday that his father, the chancellor at Liberty University, was making steady progress.

Another son, Jonathan Falwell has temporarily assumed preaching duties at Thomas Road Baptist Church, where his father is pastor.

Los Alamos workers sentenced: Two former Los Alamos National Laboratory workers accused of buying television sets, barbecues and hunting gear on a lab purchase account were sentenced Thursday to prison terms.

Both men pleaded guilty last October in federal court to charges of conspiracy and mail fraud; prosecutors dropped 26 other charges against each of the former employees.

Peter Bussolini, 67, was sentenced to six months in prison followed by six months of house arrest and \$30,000 in fines. Scott Alexander, 42, was sentenced to a year and one day in prison.

World

Assassination in Lebanon: A U.N. investigator on Friday promised to be impartial in the probe into the Feb. 14 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in Beirut, a murder that has sparked anti-government demonstrations and international uproar.

Peter Fitzgerald, the head of the three-member U.N. team, started the investigation with meetings with Lebanese officials.

The Lebanese government has insisted that it lead the inquiry but has expressed willingness to cooperate with foreign investigators.

Fitzgerald, Ireland's deputy police commissioner, was expected to visit the seafloor street where a powerful bomb hit Hariri's motorcade, killing 17 people and injuring more than 100.

Strait of Malacca piracy: Malaysia does not want help from outside the region in patrolling one of the world's most strategic waterways — the Strait of Malacca — a government minister said Friday, despite a recent rise in pirate attacks there.

Officials are "quite happy" with security in the strait, a trade and oil shipping lane between Malaysia and Indonesia's Sumatra Island, said Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

The minister was commenting on an International Maritime Bureau report that 37 pirate attacks occurred in the waterway last year, up from 28 in 2003.

Last March, Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, said an American plan to heighten security in the waterway might require a detachment of elite U.S. troops to be stationed nearby.

N. Korean nuclear crisis: President Roh Moo-hyun urged South Koreans on Friday to be calm following North Korea's recent claim that it has nuclear weapons, and he said it will take both flexibility and a principled stand to persuade the communist nation to abandon its atomic weapons program.

In a major policy speech before the National Assembly, Roh also assured that South Korea's alliance with the United States was more stable than ever, saying his government's policy of "saying what we want to say and argue what we want to argue" has made its relations with Washington healthier.

Roh's emphasis on flexibility and principle appeared to embrace two divided camps — Roh's liberal ruling party that stresses reconciliation with the North to help it open up and democratize, and his conservative critics, who accuse Roh of being too soft on the North.

Bird flu in Vietnam: Vietnam confirmed a new case of bird flu Friday, heightening the sense of urgency as an international conference on fighting the deadly virus ended with calls for concerted action to prevent a possible global pandemic.

Health and animal experts said the long-term strategy for battling the disease must focus on minimizing the risks of infection to poultry and people by a virus now firmly established within flocks of wild birds in the region, beyond hope of quick eradication.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Al-Jaafari receives key endorsement from Shiite cleric

BY ABDOUL HUSSEIN AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — United Iraqi Alliance candidate Ibrahim al-Jaafari said Friday that Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric has endorsed his nomination for prime minister.

The endorsement from Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani came after members of the clergy-backed alliance openly questioned its decision Tuesday to nominate the 58-year-old leader of the conservative Islamic Dawa Party as its candidate for prime minister following Iraq's Jan. 30 elections.

"Ayatollah al-Sistani blessed the decision taken by the alliance about the prime minister post. He respects and supports what the alliance have decided," al-Jaafari told reporters after meeting with the Iranian-born cleric for more than two hours in the southern Shiite holy city of Najaf.

He also said Iraq's Sunni Arab minority should be brought into the political process and help draft the country's first constitution. Bringing the Sunnis into the political process could help deflate the insurgency.

Sunni Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the population, dominated Saddam Hussein's Baath Party and largely boycotted the elections. They are believed to make up the core of the insurgency "Ayatollah al-Sistani also advised to take into consideration the uniqueness of Iraqi issue making it impossible not to integrate other sects and to integrate the Sunni people who were not able to participate in the elections," al-Jaafari said.

But in a move that could rile Kurds, al-Jaafari said that a dispute over the northern city of Kirkuk should be postponed until after the new constitution is drafted. A constitution must be drafted no later than Aug. 15.

Report: U.S. unaware of backgrounds of some civilian workers hired for prison duty

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department did not know about problems in the tenures of four former state prison officials when it hired them to help set up Iraq's prison system, the department's internal watchdog said Friday.

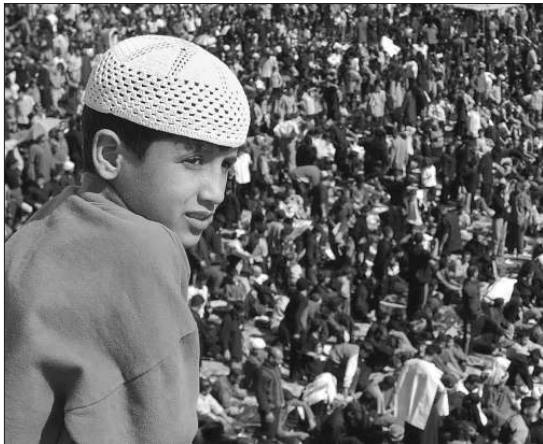
But the information would not have changed the decision to send the men to Iraq, even if officials had been aware of civil lawsuits against them, Inspector General Eric Lipton said.

Fine said his review of the contractors' time in Iraq also "found no evidence to suggest that they played any role in the abuses" at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison.

Fine's inquiry also identified weaknesses in the way background checks are performed, including 22 cases in which contractors were sent to Iraq without required background checks.

A Democratic senator, Charles Schumer, requested Fine's review in June, saying the four former state officials had been convicted of crimes that should have precluded them from the private contracting jobs.

Each had lawsuits or other problems linked to their tenures in state government, Schumer said. One of the four, Terry Stewart, was sued by the Justice Department in 1997, when he ran Arizona's Corrections Department, over allegations that female inmates were repeatedly raped, sexually assaulted and watched by corrections workers as they dressed, showered and used the bathroom.



Jaafar Mahdi watches Friday prayers from the balcony of his house in the Sadr City area of Baghdad on Friday. A roadside bomb killed three U.S. soldiers north of Baghdad on Friday, a day after three soldiers were killed in separate attacks across the country. "There was a group of American soldiers walking in the road while around five Humvees were parking behind them," said Waleed Nadeh, who witnessed the roadside bomb explosion in Tarmiyah that killed three soldiers and left nine others wounded. "I heard a very loud explosion and I saw bodies flying."

AP

3 U.S. soldiers killed by bomb

BY PATRICK QUINN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb killed three U.S. soldiers and wounded nine others north of Baghdad on Friday, the military said, while the government announced the capture of three figures associated with Iraq's bloody insurgency.

The attack occurred around midday in Tarmiyah, about 20 miles north of the capital. The military said three U.S. soldiers were killed Thursday in separate attacks.

"There was a group of American soldiers walking in the road while around five Humvees were parking behind them," said Waleed Nadeh, 35, who lives in the area. "I heard a very loud explosion and I saw bodies flying."

Residents saw about a dozen injured U.S. soldiers lying on blood-spattered ground.

Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, a spokesman for the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, said the patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device — the term commonly used to describe a roadside bomb. Three soldiers were killed and nine were wounded, Kent said.

The road was immediately blocked off by the U.S. military and Iraqi security forces, and helicopters took the injured away, according to Nadeh and Alaa Nageh, who works at a nearby factory.

Both said they heard gunfire after the incident.

Attacks Thursday left 30 people dead, including the three Americans killed in separate incidents.

In Baghdad, the government said one of the three men arrested was Talib Mikhlef Arsan Walman al-Dulaymi, also known as Abu Qutaybah, a key aide to Jordanian-born terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Al-Zarqawi leads an insurgency affiliated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Abu Qutaybah, who was captured during a Feb. 20 raid in Anah, about 160 miles northwest of Baghdad, "was responsible for determining who, when and how terrorist network leaders would meet with al-Zarqawi," the government said.

He "filled the role of key lieutenant for

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,486 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,130 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salva-

dor, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,348 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,021 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- A U.S. soldier was killed Thursday by an explosive north of Samarra, Iraq.
- A U.S. soldier was killed Thursday by an explosive in Diyala province near Qaryat, Iraq.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- No identifications reported.

the Zarqawi network, arranging safe houses and transportation as well as passing packages and funds to al-Zarqawi," the government said. "His extensive contacts and operational ability throughout western Iraq made him a critical figure in the Zarqawi network."

Al-Zarqawi has a \$25 million U.S. bounty on his head and is believed to have orchestrated a wave of car bombings, kidnappings, assassinations and beheadings across the country.

During the same raid, Iraqi forces also captured another al-Zarqawi aide who "occasionally acted as his driver," the government said. The man was identified as Ahmad Khalid Marad Ismail al-Rawi, who also helped arrange meetings for al-Zarqawi.

Their names belong to well-known Sunni tribes in and around the town of Ramadi, a hotbed of the insurgency in Anbar province west of Baghdad.

The government also said it apprehended the leader of an al-Qaida-affiliated cell allegedly responsible for carrying out a string of beheadings.

Mohamed Najam Ibrahim was arrested in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of Bag-

dad, the government said Thursday, but it gave no date for the arrest.

Officials said British troops were linked to al-Zarqawi.

Ibrahim carried out beheadings with his brother, the government said, adding that he was being interrogated by authorities.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber wearing a police uniform blew up his car during a shift change at police headquarters in Tikrit on Thursday, killing at least 15 people in Saddam Hussein's hometown in the bloodiest of several attacks.

In Iskandariyah, 30 miles south of the capital, a suicide bomber killed five people when he blew himself up in front of the local headquarters of a key Shiite alliance member, the Shiite Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The U.S. command said five American soldiers were killed and two wounded in separate bombings, one northeast of Baghdad in Qaryat, and a second near Samarra, west of Qaryat. The military said a Polish soldier and injured four other troops near Diwaniyah, the U.S.-led military coalition said.

1st ID soldier faces murder, abuse charges

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A 1st Infantry Division senior non-commissioned officer was charged this week with killing one prisoner and mistreating others last fall during the unit's deployment to Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Jorge L. Diaz, 34, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, appeared Wednesday before a military judge in Würzburg.

The 1st ID's staff judge advocate released a list of the charges Friday.

Diaz, a 17-year veteran, pleaded innocent to one count of premeditated murder, one count of mistreating a prisoner, two counts of assault, one count of making a false official statement and one count of trying to impede an investigation.

Diaz is accused of committing the crimes during a cordon-and-search operation of Iraqi

buildings near Balad on Oct. 24-25. According to the charge sheet, Diaz is alleged to have forced a blindfolded prisoner on Oct. 24 to hold a smoke grenade with the pin pulled, pointed a pistol to his head, and punched and choked him.

The next day, during a separate search, he allegedly shot and killed an Iraqi, Thaher Khaleefa Ahmed.

Diaz also is accused of telling his soldiers to lie about the inci-

dent and of falsely telling an Army investigator that Ahmed had made a threatening movement toward him.

According to the charge sheet, prosecutors do not intend to seek the death penalty.

A trial is tentatively scheduled for early May.

The Diaz case is the latest in a long line of alleged abuse of Iraqi terror suspects by U.S. soldiers.

Sgt. Michael Williams and Spc. Brent May of the 1st Cavalry Divi-

sion were charged in September with premeditated murder in the deaths of three Iraqis.

Chief warrant officers Jefferson Williams and Lewis Welshofer Jr., Sgt. 1st Class William Sommer and Spc. Jerry Loper of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment were charged in October in the November 2003 death of Iraqi soldier and prisoner of war Mawhood during questioning.

Stripes editor Pat Dickson contributed to this report from Washington. E-mail Steve Liewer at sliewer@starsandstripes.com



U.S. Maj. Gen. Eric Olson hands out awards Friday to soldiers of 2nd Battalion, from Kearney Base in the province of Pakтика, Afghanistan. Olson warned against cutting American force strength in Afghanistan, saying that insurgents remain a grave threat.

General: Too soon to cut Afghanistan force

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

ORGUN, Afghanistan — Taliban and al-Qaida insurgents remain a grave threat to Afghanistan, a senior U.S. general said Friday, warning against cutting American troop strength in the country while Afghan and NATO forces are not ready to fill the breach.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson said he was concerned that American policy-makers will seize on a recent drop in militant attacks to cut the 17,000-strong U.S. force in Afghanistan to ease the pressure on American forces stretched by their deployment in Iraq.

"If there is no real spring offensive (by the Taliban), I think there may be pressure on the international community to draw down force levels and I think that would be a big mistake," Olson, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Afghanistan, told The Associated Press.

"I think there's still an insurgency to win here, and I think the Afghan central government is at this point very much dependent on the support of the coalition," he said.

While Olson reiterated that the trail of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had "gone cold," he said U.S. forces were keeping up the

hunt and he didn't anticipate any letup in that part of their mission.

"There are no specific leads to bin Laden right now, but we collectively are just as determined to continue to hunt him," he said.

Under Olson, who leaves Afghanistan next month, U.S. troops have set up a string of small bases across the south and east of the country to back up officials from President Hamid Karzai's government and to intercept militants crossing from Pakistan.

Commanders say that decision helped protect landmark October elections and has convinced many ordinary Afghans to turn their back on the Taliban.

Olson said he was not convinced NATO plans to expand into western Afghanistan this year and then to the south, but the general said he was not convinced that NATO troops would match the numbers or capabilities of the U.S. units they should eventually replace.

Afghanistan's new army and police will need five to 10 years before they can begin to perform properly, he said.

Olson praised Pakistan for a bloody crackdown on militants, including suspected al-Qaida fighters, on its side of the border, but said they had "by no means" finished off forces with ambitions to retake Afghanistan.

Trial set for captain accused of killing badly injured Iraqi

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

The court-martial of a 1st Armored Division captain accused of murdering an Iraqi man last year is set to begin March 28, according to Army officials.

If coverage of the preliminary hearings last fall is any indication, the trial of Capt. Rogelio M. Maymulet should generate great interest among servicemembers and the media. Some view the case as "an act of mercy" to a dead or dying man, while Army prosecutors maintain it was murder.

Maymulet is charged with premeditated murder and dereliction of duty relating to the May 21 death of a man believed to be associated with the insurgency campaign against U.S. troops. At the time of the incident, Maymulet commanded Company A, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, and was viewed by many superiors as a rising star.

"Captain Maymulet maintains his innocence, and I think that the court members will reach the right and just verdict," Capt. Will Helixon, the lead defense attorney, said in a telephone interview Friday.

The trial will be held in the courtroom on Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany.

Maj. Michael Indovina, a division spokesman, said the proceedings are expected to last several days.

"It will definitely go the full week, based on the number of witnesses," Helixon said.

The list for both sides includes about 45 to 50 names, Helixon said.

Prosecutors are expected to introduce a 10-minute video of the incident and the events preceding it. An unmanned aerial vehicle operating at the time near the Iraqi cities of Kufa and Najaf apparently captured the shooting on tape.

The video was not played in open court during the pretrial hearing. The encounter between Maymulet and the Iraqi man came at the end of a vehicle chase between U.S. soldiers and a car believed to contain militia forces.

In a U.S. Central Command news release following the incident, the Army stated "the driver and a passenger were wounded" when U.S. forces shot at their vehicle. "Shortly thereafter, the wounded driver was shot and killed at close range."

At the preliminary hearing, defense attorneys presented expert medical testimony and a report by the on-scene medic. The report stated there were at least two bullet wounds to the base of the driver's skull and that brain matter was on his clothes and in the car. A medical expert said a person in such a state could still move, but it would likely be involuntarily.

As the scene was unfolding, there were gunbattles with insurgents in the immediate vicinity, and evacuation of the injured was not possible, according to defense witnesses.

During Maymulet's Article 32 hearing in December, fellow officer 1st Lt. Colin Cremin testified that Maymulet told him he then shot the Iraqi in the base of the neck or the back of the head.

"It was something he didn't want to do, but it was the compassionate response," Cremin testified. "It was definitely the humane response."

Whatever the circumstances, prosecutors argue Maymulet unlawfully killed a man who, at the time, was alive, even if his chances for survival were slim.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at doughertyk@starsandstripes.com

Nine Afghan troops killed in ambush

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Taliban insurgents launched three separate attacks in southeastern Afghanistan, killing nine Afghan troops and wounding an American soldier while sustaining heavy casualties themselves, officials said Friday.

At least nine Afghan soldiers were killed when rebels ambushed their vehicle in Helmand province on Thursday, said Haji Wali Mohammed, a spokesman for the governor.

"We lost contact with the Afghan soldiers late Thursday, and their bodies were found today," he said, adding that authorities would hunt down and arrest the "terrorists" who carried out the attack.

Taliban rebels immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in the district of Chakul.

"Yes, the Taliban did this and we will launch more attacks against government and coalition forces," Mullah Latif Hakimi, who often speaks for the Taliban, said by telephone.

In neighboring Kandahar, an American soldier was shot and wounded when he and his unit came

under small-arms fire while investigating a roadside bomb on Thursday, the U.S. military said in a statement.

An insurgent was also injured and taken into custody after the attack. Both men were being treated at a coalition hospital. The U.S. soldier was listed in stable condition.

Meanwhile, rebels ambushed an Afghan patrol in Khost province, near the border with Pakistan, injuring five soldiers Thursday.

Afghan and U.S. forces fired back, killing three Taliban suspects and injuring another.

Two U.S. helicopters set to survey the area hours later were attacked from the ground with small-arms fire. One of the helicopters fired back, killing seven more suspected insurgents, the U.S. military said.

The series of attacks follow a period of relative calm in Afghanistan amid rising hope that the insurgency is faltering.

Taliban spokesmen have said attacks are down only because of the harsh winter, and that they would resume once the weather improved.

Bill to target 'don't ask, don't tell' policy

BY JOHN HENDREN
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers called Thursday for an end to the Pentagon's ban on gays in the military, citing findings in a government report that the prohibition hurts recruiting and retention even as the war in Iraq strains the military's ability to maintain its troop strength.

Government Accountability Office study, released Wednesday, found that since 1993, the Department of Defense had spent at least \$191 million to recruit and train replacements for almost 10,000 servicemembers discharged under the ban—including more than 300 with critical nuclear skills. On Thursday, Rep. Marty Meehan, D-Mass., prepared to offer a bill that would end the Pentagon's 12-year-old policy, known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Lawmakers cite military retention, recruitment problems in attempt to end homosexual ban

"The conventional justification for 'don't ask, don't tell' has been that allowing gays to serve undermines military readiness," Meehan said. "Now we have the numbers to prove that the policy itself is undermining our military readiness."

The prohibition on gays in the military is a long-standing principle of military law. But in an effort to keep a campaign promise to lift the ban, President Clinton established "don't ask, don't tell" in early 1993. Under the policy, the military is not allowed to ask about sexual orientation and service members are not to reveal it.

If the fact that they are gay becomes pub-

lic, servicemembers can be discharged.

Although Meehan's measure is unlikely to be approved under the Bush administration, the renewed challenge to the prohibition on gay servicemembers marked the latest, and perhaps most creative, effort to improve the military's ability to fill its ranks as it strains to keep up troop strength for military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army National Guard is 24 percent below its recruitment goal for the past four months, and the Army Reserve is 7 percent down.

The Marines failed to meet their goal in

January for the first time since before the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Pentagon officials continue to insist that they expect to meet their annual goals by Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

The war in Iraq has offered potential recruits an increasingly stark choice between almost certain combat duty and an expanded array of career options in an improving economy. Candidates for what was once weekend and summer duty in the Guard or Reserve are less likely to join now, analysts said.

"As the economy improves, you see a tightening of the labor pool."

In addition, you have the active-duty army competing with the Guard and Reserves. It's a triple threat," said Daniel Goure, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute, an Arlington, Va., public policy center.

Prison abuse case

LONDON — The British military said Friday it would investigate allegations by five Iraqi men who say they are the prisoners featured in photographs showing abuse by British troops.

Three British soldiers are due to be sentenced by court martial Friday for the mistreatment.

Pictures of the abuse — which included an Iraqi hoisted on a forklift and two naked men simulating oral and anal sex — have provoked outrage in Britain.

The victims were not identified and did not testify at the court martial on a British military base in Germany.

Opinion poll on Iraq

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans, 54 percent, now say they believe U.S. troops will have to stay in Iraq for at least two more years, compared with 44 percent of people who felt that way last summer, a poll released Thursday finds.

The Jan. 30 elections in Iraq appear to have improved perceptions in the United States about the possibility of a stable Iraq, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

The Pew poll of 1,502 adults was taken Feb. 16-21. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Dutch forces coming?

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — The Dutch government has been negotiating secretly with the United States to send 150 commandos to Afghanistan for anti-terrorist missions, the Dutch media reported Friday.

A spokesman for the defense department said he could not immediately confirm the reports by De Telegraaf newspaper and others. NOS television showed several ministers entering a Cabinet meeting complaining that the mission was supposed to be classified.

The Netherlands currently contributes around 260 soldiers to NATO's stabilization force in Afghanistan, known as ISAF. The Dutch also have 1,400 troops in Iraq as part of the U.S.-led coalition, but they are due to be withdrawn on March 15.

From The Associated Press

Tattered flag raises debate

Man plans to fly flag until troops return from Iraq

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A former Air Force medic's plan to fly the same American flag until U.S. troops return from Iraq has been criticized as the flag becomes faded and tattered.

Moses Mitchell hoisted the brand new flag outside his business center and day-care facility near Lackland Air Force Base two years ago as a tribute to the troops in Iraq.

"I knew I had some rebelliousness in my mind when I was doing this, but basically it was something to remind of the pain and agony and the death that our troops are facing over there," said Mitchell, who treated Vietnam War casualties.

The flag's condition has infuriated Vietnam War veteran Jack Long. He has contacted politicians, the police and even the FBI in a futile effort to force Mitchell to take it down.

"It's just hanging in shreds," Long said. "It breaks my heart to see that. It is so disgraceful."

A section of federal law known as the Flag Code does state that "the flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." But there are no penalties for violating the code, and it is binding only on federal installations.

"The code functions simply as a guide to be voluntarily followed by civilians and civilian groups," according to a 2004 Congressional Research Service report.

Michael Busch, assistant director of the American Legion's national headquarters, said he believes it is wrong for Mitchell to display a disintegrating flag.

Mitchell said that it's not a war protest; he supports President Bush's decision. But he said that displaying "nice shiny flags" misrepresents the deadly and difficult work Americans do there.



Moses Mitchell stands near a tattered U.S. flag Wednesday outside his business center and day-care facility near Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. The former Air Force medic's plan to fly the same flag until U.S. troops return from Iraq has been criticized as the flag becomes faded and tattered.

Halliburton to receive bonuses from Army

BY CHARLES R. BABCOCK

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Army announced Thursday that it has approved \$9.4 million in bonus payments to a Halliburton Co. subsidiary on more than \$1 billion in work supporting the war effort in Iraq and Afghanistan, even though the government hasn't approved final costs and terms of the contracts.

The Army Field Support Command said in a statement that boards evaluating Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown & Root Inc.'s performance rated the company "excellent" or "very good" on 14 task orders and thus authorized interim "award fees." The awards totaled \$5 million on \$392 million of logistics work in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, and \$4.4 million on \$758 million of logistics work in Kuwait in support of the war in Iraq, according to calculations based on an Army spread sheet.

KBR's contracts have been criticized by Democrats in Congress because other contractors it received to support the war effort were awarded without bidding. Dick Cheney was Halliburton's chief executive before he ran for vice president in 2000.

Earlier this month, the Army announced it was going against the advice of auditors, who cited \$1.8 billion in "unsupported costs," and would not withhold 15 percent of KBR's payments on the contract for which it has now awarded bonus payments.

KBR has billed the government for \$10.5 billion under the competitively bid logistics contract, according to Dan Carlson, a spokesman for the field support command. KBR has been paid \$7.2 billion, he said.

Some Pentagon officials have questioned the use of "award fees" to motivate contractors building expensive weapons systems, saying the bonuses don't help bring projects in under budget.



Marines load duff bags as 220 members of Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2 prepare to depart Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, N.C. Suicide rates for all the services began rising in 2002 which leads leads experts to believe that stress is broadly linked to deployments.

Suicides in Marine Corps up 29 percent last year

BY ANN SCOTT TYSON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps suffered a 29 percent spike in suicides last year, reaching the highest number in at least a decade, with the demanding pace of military operations likely contributing to the deaths, a top-ranking U.S. Marine said Thursday.

Thirty-one Marines committed suicide in 2004, all of them enlisted men, not commissioned officers. The majority were younger than 25 and took their lives with gunshot wounds, according to Marine statistics.

Another 83 Marines attempted suicide. There were 24 suicides in 2003, and there have not been more than 29 in any year in the last 10.

Although last year's suicide rate rose, it was still below the national average for a comparable civilian group, in keeping with an established pattern of suicide being lower in the U.S. military than in the civilian population.

Marine commanders say the rise in suicides continues a worrisome three-year trend that is likely linked to stress from the sharp-

ly increased pace of war-zone rotations. At the same time, they said the increase in suicides is not directly related to service in Iraq or Afghanistan, since 2001 24 percent of the suicides have been committed by Marines who have been deployed there, the statistics show.

It is "not only Iraq, it's just the [operational tempo] in general, that's what I think," Gen. Michael W. Hagee, the Marine Corps commandant, told reporters at a breakfast meeting Thursday.

Hagee's remarks echoed a strong warning in a Dec. 13 memo that he issued on suicide prevention. "This problem is pervasive and is impacting Marines throughout the Corps, not just those who have been deployed in support of the global war on terrorism," the memo said.

"The increased operational

tempo that our Corps is experiencing may be affecting the ability of our Marines to deal with perceived overwhelming stresses associated with relationship, financial and disciplinary problems."

Indeed, about 70 percent of Marine suicides over the past four years have been caused by problems in personal relationships, which can be exacerbated by heavy workloads, said Cmdr. Thomas Gaskin, a behavioral health specialist for the Corps' Personal and Family Readiness Division at Quantico, Va. "That is the single biggest stressor," he said.

With a force that is the youngest in the military services and predominantly male, the Marine Corps has generally experienced the highest suicide rate among the military branches because its demographics mirror a high-risk group in the general population. More than 60 percent of Marines are younger than 25, and 16 percent are teen-agers.

Suicide rates for all the services began rising in 2002, and the Army had an increase in 2003, the first year of the Iraq war. This leads experts to believe that stress is broadly linked to deployments.



Hagee

NetPets.org helps foster animals of deployed troops

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Steve Albin thought he'd be enjoying retirement right about now with lots of nothing to do.

Instead, the former dog breeder and owner of a kennel and grooming store works full-time running a global network, pairing troops and their pets with volunteers who'll give those pets a temporary home.

Albin started NetPets.org shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, figuring the nation would be going to war.

"I heard what happened during the last desert war. If military members had no friends or family who could step up to the plate, they were left with nonacceptable options: shelter or abandonment."

"Either way, they would never see their pets again ... What a morale builder," Albin deadpanned.

In order to serve and protect, you have to kill your best buddy."

About 5,000 foster families worldwide make up the mosaic of pet lovers and owners that is the MilitaryPetsFOSTER Project, specifically designed to connect foster homes with military members who might be deploying, moving or going to school.

South Carolina resident Lynn Boccia is fostering "Semper," a 2-year-old shepherd-mix owned by a Marine who deployed for seven months.

"With all we ask of our service personnel ... I wondered what I could do on my end. I can't take up arms and fight side-by-side, but I can open my home to their pets. That's at least one worry off their mind," said Boccia, assistant clerk for the Beaufort County Council.

Semper joined her home already filled with two dogs and two cats, and aside from the occasional "stand-off," they've all gotten along. Every Monday morning when she gets to work, she e-mails the Marine, whom she declined



Courtesy of Stars and Stripes

Lynn Boccia of South Carolina is looking after Semper, a 2-year-old shepherd-mix owned by a deployed Marine.

to identify, keeping him in the loop on Semper's activities and shenanigans, "like chasing mounds in the backyard."

Pets have to be legal (no venomous snakes, for example), up-to-date on all vaccinations, and spayed or neutered if they are not show animals, Albin said. Foster families must provide a list of references and contact information for a local veterinarian.

Anyone interested in taking in a pet or making a charitable donation can visit www.NetPets.Org.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at jontz@mail.strips.com or call 252-733-1111.

New JCAHO standards forcing Army, Navy to hire more pharmacists

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Special to Stars and Stripes

The Air Force and Navy likely will have to hire a few hundred more pharmacists over the next 18 months to meet tougher standards being imposed on the role of pharmacy technicians.

Even the Army, which for years has kept a higher ratio of pharmacists to pharmacy technicians than the other medical services, could be required to boost its number of pharmacists by an August 2006 deadline.

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations formally notified the military surgeons general this month of a change in standards for accredited military hospital and clinics to meet regarding handwashing and dispensing of medications.

JCAHO no longer will exempt the military from a requirement that a pharmacist review all prescriptions and hospital medication orders before drugs are dispensed.

The exemption recognized that military pharmacy techs receive more comprehensive training than private sector counterparts, said Joseph L. Cappiello, the commission's vice president for field operations.

But standards on patient safety have evolved to where allowing technicians alone to fill prescriptions — by having military techs check other techs — no longer will be acceptable if hospitals and clinics are to stay accredited.

The change takes effect March 1 but the services have 18 months

Look for Philpott's Military Update Thursdays on the business page

to hire the extra pharmacists they need or, in some cases, to buy telemedicine technology for pharmacists to supervise dispensing of drugs at remote sites.

Col. Phil Samples, pharmacy consultant to the Air Force surgeon general, said his service alone will need from 150 to 300 more pharmacists.

All but two Air Force overseas bases, both of them overseas, have at least one pharmacist on staff, Samples said, but not enough over all to provide direct supervision of every prescription filled.

Prescriptions still get filled, for example, if the pharmacist goes to lunch. This more relaxed standard has allowed the Air Force to keep its ratio of technicians to pharmacist at four-to-one versus two-to-one found in most retail pharmacies and civilian hospitals.

Capt. Elizabeth Nolan, program manager for Navy pharmacies, said about 100 of its satellite pharmacies are technician-run, which means they soon will need direct supervision of pharmacists.

Not impacted are ships at sea and remote operational outposts as in Iraq or South Korea.

The services want to avoid closing satellite pharmacies, a third option.

But finding and paying hun-

dreds of additional pharmacists won't be easy. Demand for outposts supply given expanding chains of retailers and supermarkets who want to dispense drugs, and the growing dependence of patients everywhere on medications to maintain health.

All Navy pharmacy operations are under review "because there are a lot of ways to skin this cat," said Nolan.

"Our focus is going to be on patient safety but maintaining the same level of service to beneficiaries."

Col. Mike Heath, top pharmacy consultant for the Army, said he can't say until a "gap analysis" is complete how many pharmacists even his service might need.

"I imagine we will have to hire more," he said.

IN THE WORLD



Nuns look at the 10th floor of Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital where Pope John Paul II remains hospitalized on Friday. The pontiff is breathing on his own and is not suffering from pneumonia, the Vatican said Friday, a day after he was rushed to a hospital for surgery to ease another breathing crisis.

Pope said to be breathing on his own after surgery

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II is breathing on his own and is not suffering from pneumonia, the Vatican said Friday, taking pains to cast the pope's condition in a positive light a day after he was rushed to a hospital for surgery to ease another breathing crisis.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the frail 84-year-old pontiff spent a restless night at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, where he was taken by ambulance Thursday after suffering his second bout of breathing trouble in less than a month.

John Paul's latest hospitalization was certain to further fuel speculation about whether he could continue as pope, and what would happen if he were incapacitated.

The pope had no signs of a lung infection such as pneumonia, Navarro-Valls told reporters. He said the operation to cut a small breathing hole in the pope's throat "was not an emergency procedure."

"It was a question of assuring adequate breathing of the patient," he said. A doctor trained in emergency assistance has been on call at the Vatican but there was never any need for him, Navarro-Valls said.

Italian news agencies had reported that John Paul was placed on a respirator after the surgery, but Navarro-Valls said the pope "had no need of assisted breathing."

"Assisted means mechanical, which wasn't used yesterday nor last night nor this morning. There was no need," he said.

"He's breathing better. He has a significant feeling of relief," the papal spokesman said. He said John Paul had no fever, the pope's post-operative condition was progressing normally and that doctors had used a "mild" anesthesia on the pope.

He said a decision would be made Saturday on what the pope will do for his Sunday noon blessing, a tradition very dear to the pontiff.

"The Holy Father spent a night of tranquil rest," he said.

"This morning, he ate breakfast with a good appetite. He's breathing on his own and cardio-circulatory conditions remain good."

"Upon the advice of his doctors, the pope must not speak for several days, so as to favor the recovery of the functions of the larynx," Navarro-Valls said.

Navarro-Valls said the pope's breakfast included coffee with milk, 10 biscuits and yogurt. "He ate everything," the spokesman said.

The pope wrote a note Thursday night to his aides saying, "What did they do to me?" Navarro-Valls said, describing it as a joking message.

"I am always totus tuus," Navarro-Valls quoted the pope as writing. Totus tuus is John Paul's Latin motto translated by his spokesman as meaning, "I am completely in your hands."

He said the Vatican did not expect to issue another medical bulletin until Monday.

Survivor gets wallet back 32 years after crash

The Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — One of 16 survivors of a 1972 Andes plane crash made famous by a book and movie has gotten his wallet and jacket back 32 years after leaving them in the mountain snows.

Eduardo Strauch, who survived 72 days in high mountain snows, received the aged wallet, drivers license and other personal items Wednesday, a week after they were found in the Andes by a mountain climber.

Strauch, now a 57-year-old architect and father of five, was aboard a flight with fellow ragby players, relatives and friends when their plane crashed high in the Andes on Oct. 12, 1972.

"Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors" by Piers Paul Read publicized the story with accounts of how survivors ate flesh from some of the victims to survive. The story was later dramatized in a Hollywood movie.

A Mexican hiker chanced upon

the items just yards from the site where the plane went down.

The hiker passed the items on to a local hotelier who gave them to Alvaro Mangino, another Uruguayan who survived the flight and happened to be in western Argentina at that time. Mangino delivered the wallet to Strauch.

"This is just a feeling that it's impossible to describe," Strauch said. The Associated Press on Thursday, "It's incredible, amazing that this episode continues to speak for itself."

U.N.: Attack kills 9 peacekeepers in northeast Congo

By BRYAN MEALER

The Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo — Unidentified attackers ambushed U.N. peacekeepers on patrol Friday in northeastern Congo, killing nine Bangladeshi troops in the deadliest assault ever on the 6-year-old U.N. mission, officials said.

The attack occurred near the town of Kafu, 20 miles northwest of Bunia, capital of Congo's lawless Ituri province, U.N. spokesman Mamadou Bah said.

The nine men were among 21 Bangladeshi patrolling Friday morning in the area of a camp housing civilians who have been displaced by persistent fighting in Ituri, Bah said.

"These blue helmets were out there protecting people, and they got ambushed while doing it," Mamadou Bah said. More than 50,000 and forced more than 500,000 to flee their homes, U.N. officials and human rights groups say.

The fighting is mainly between armed militia of the Hema and Lendu tribes, whose hatred for one another plays out in retaliatory village raids and massacres.

The Ituri conflict came amid Congo's larger war, after which a transitional government arranged in 2003 that has struggled to extend its authority to the vast country's often lawless east.

During the war, both neighboring Uganda and Rwanda armed the Hema and Lendu militias, mainly to wrest control of the mineral-rich territory. The two sides eventually turned on one another.

2 U.N. soldiers may be forced to leave Haiti after sexual incident

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Two Pakistani police officers working as U.N. peacekeepers in Haiti have been suspended and may face repatriation after a U.N. investigation found they had sex with a prostitute in a banana field, U.N. officials said Thursday.

The men will be repatriated if a board of inquiry confirms the findings of a U.N. and Haitian police investigation, said Damien Onses-Cardona, spokesman for the 7,400-member force.

The board is expected to make a decision in two weeks, Onses-Cardona said.

If the board confirms the findings, the men will be repatriated and then it will be up to their country of origin to decide what to do with them," Onses-Cardona said. It wasn't clear whether

roughly 16,000 troops in Congo — the world's largest peacekeeping deployment.

The United Nations sent an attack helicopter and a transport helicopter with a rapid reaction force, but bad weather limited their effectiveness, Demange said.

U.N. peacekeepers are overseeing a transition toward peace in Congo, where the five-year war,

involving six nations, killed more than 3 million people by aid workers' estimates, most through strife-induced hunger and disease.

About 4,800 U.N. forces are in Ituri. Since 1999, fighting in the vast northeastern district of Ituri has killed

500,000 and forced more than 500,000 to flee their homes, U.N. officials and human rights groups say.

The fighting is mainly between armed militia of the Hema and Lendu tribes, whose hatred for one another plays out in retaliatory village raids and massacres.

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During the war, both neighboring Uganda and Rwanda armed the Hema and Lendu militias, mainly to wrest control of the mineral-rich territory. The two sides eventually turned on one another.

they would be prohibited from participating in future peacekeeping missions.

U.N. regulations forbid solicitation. Haitian law permits solicitation as long as all parties are over 18, said Jean-Claude Jean, head of the Haitian police judicial division.

The investigation stemmed from allegations that three Pakistani police officers had raped a 23-year-old woman in the central city of Gonaves.

Locals told U.N. peacekeepers they had seen two men engaging in sexual acts with the woman in a banana field on Feb. 18, said Jean Lafaille, commander of a U.N. police unit. A third Pakistani was present but wasn't engaged in sexual act, said Lafaille.

When interviewed by police and U.N. inspectors, the woman acknowledged she had been paid for the sex, Lafaille said.



Knill family via AP

Clockwise from bottom left: A series of photos shows the beach at Khao Lak, Thailand, on Dec. 26. The photos — which show the water receding, then forming into the huge wave about to engulf a person in picture 5, then finally crashing ashore — were found in the digital camera of a North Vancouver, British Columbia, couple who were killed by the wave.

Tsunami photos 'an echo from the grave'

BY LORNET TURNBULL
Seattle Times

It was like a puzzle — these images from a broken digital camera washed up on a deserted beach in Thailand.

Christian Pilet of North Bend, Wash., could not have known the power of his discovery: the last photos taken by a couple who lost their lives in the Dec. 26 tsunami and the closure the photo diary would bring to a grieving family half a world away in British Columbia.

Taken in sequence, the photographs tell a gripping story: John and Jackie Knill arriving at a Khao Lak resort, happily enjoying Christmas dinner with a large group of friends and then basking in a brilliant tropical sunset.

The next day, the couple is seen hugging, smiling — radiant on the beach. Then the story turns ominous: people stroll the beach under a clear blue sky, apparently oblivious to the large wave that has formed a line across the horizon.

The wave gets closer, its power more evident as it kicks up sand and mud and finally crashes onto the beach.

"We were stunned — just out of the blue, an echo from the grave," Pilet said. "What

we saw in these pictures were the last five minutes of these people's lives."

Pilet knew nothing about the man and woman in these photos. But through the power of the Internet and dogged determination, he would find their family virtually in his own back yard.

The Knills of North Vancouver, British Columbia, had been on a four-month vacation in Thailand when they were caught in the deadly tsunami. The disaster killed more than 170,000 people.

Well known across western British Columbia, John Knill was retired from an alarm company his family founded and was involved in music production; Jackie had recently sold a yacht-detailing business.

Of the photos, their son Patrick Knill, 28, said, "This is more than we could ever have asked for. It's like being there with our parents and seeing what they were seeing in those final moments."

Pilet, a missionary with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, had traveled with colleagues to Southeast Asia earlier this month to assess the relief effort.

He and a friend had taken a break from the group to explore the beach.

The resorts were all destroyed, he re-

calls. "We saw suitcases that were never claimed. Shoes. Thousands and thousands of shoes. Passports ..."

"My friend spotted the camera. One more piece of junk. It was smashed up pretty bad."

He said he popped out the digital camera's memory card and tossed the rest away.

Back at their hotel, he used his Palm Pilot to upload a flawless set of photos from the card onto his computer.

"We immediately thought about how we could get them to the family," he said.

At home, Pilet's wife searched the Internet and found a link to a Web site with a photograph of the Knills and information about how to contact their relatives.

On Feb. 11, Pilet drove to Vancouver to deliver the memory card of photos to the Knills' children.

At the time Pilet presented the photos to their sons, he said he felt compelled to answer their one nagging question: Why didn't their parents just run?

"I walked that beach. There was really nowhere for them to run to," he said. "Initially, it probably didn't even cross their mind to get away. At the point they took that last picture, they had to have known — but by then it was too late."

Warning system conference ends

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Indian Ocean nations planning a tsunami warning system were set to wrap up a meeting in Japan on Friday, as relatives of victims in Thailand were becoming increasingly impatient with the slow process of identifying the dead.

The three-day seminar in Tokyo by environmental and disaster prevention officials from Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and other countries struck by the Dec. 26 South Asian tsunami included a tour of facilities in a tsunami-prone area south of Tokyo.

Delegates also studied Japan's coastal defense network — the world's most extensive tsunami warning system — looking at the country's coastal defenses.

Meanwhile, in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the United Nations said Friday it had no plans to increase security in the area, despite warnings that Islamic militants could be planning attacks on foreign aid workers.

Nepal's king says he will restore democracy in three years

The Associated Press

KATMANDU, Nepal — Nepal's king has promised to restore democracy in three years, and insists that he upholds democratic principles despite his power grab earlier this month, a newspaper said Friday.

In his first comments to the Nepalese media since he sacked the government and declared a state of emergency on Feb. 1, King Gyanendra also urged Maoist rebels to join peace talks and shrugged off the suspension of military aid by India and Britain.

The king also suspended civil

rights and hand-picked a monarchist Cabinet. Dozens of opposition politicians have been arrested or have gone underground, and the media has been strictly censored since the king's takeover.

However, six prisoners who had been held without charge were released Friday.

Gyanendra has said he was forced to take control because of the failure of the former government to stop the communist insurgency and corruption among politicians. But in a meeting with a dozen Nepalese editors inside the sprawling Narayanhiti Palace on Thursday, he promised to restore

democracy.

"You have given me something that is badly infected. Three years is the maximum we have asked for [to restore democracy]. If I can, I will definitely shorten that period," Gyanendra was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post's Friday edition.

Anglicans torn over homosexuality

Leaders to ask U.S., Canada to withdraw from key council for 3 years

BY ROBERT BARR

The Associated Press

NEWRY, Northern Ireland — Anglican leaders have "no intention" of watering down the worldwide communion to deal with explosive differences over homosexuality, a senior bishop said Friday. Archbishop of Perth, Peter Carnley, primate of Australia's Anglican church, said the decision of Anglican leaders to ask the U.S. Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to withdraw from a key council of the global communion for three years did not mean the 77 million-strong Anglican community was heading for a split.

Speaking at the end of a meet-

ing of senior Anglican bishops, or primates, Carnley rejected suggestions the communion might become "a kind of loose-knit federation."

"That has no interest for the primates," he said. "We are theologically grounded in the communion of God the Holy Trinity and that's what we want to maintain."

The Anglican leaders' meeting was triggered by the crisis caused by election of a gay bishop in the United States and the blessing of same-sex unions there and in Canada.

In a statement released late Thursday, the bishops called on the U.S. and Canadian churches to "voluntarily withdraw their members from the Anglican Com-

sultative Council for the period leading up to the next Lambeth Conference," an international Anglican gathering due to be held in 2008.

The Episcopal Church, which is the U.S. province of Anglicanism, precipitated the most serious rift in the communion's history when it consecrated V. Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire in November 2003. Robinson lives with his longtime male partner.

Conservatives have also criticized North American dioceses for allowing blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples.

The North Americans have been asked not to attend the next meeting of the consultative council, a

body of bishops, priests and lay people from national Anglican churches who meet and consult in between the once-a-decade Lambeth Conferences for the primates.

However, Anglican leaders also recommended a special league be organized at the council's gathering in June to allow the North American churches to send representatives who could explain their views on homosexuality.

"In the meantime, we ask our fellow primates to use their best influence to persuade their brothers and sisters to exercise a moratorium on public rites of blessing for same-sex unions and on the consecration of any bishop living in a sexual relationship outside Christian marriage," the statement said.

Cameras not helping

LONDON — The web of security cameras monitoring Britain's streets, stations and shopping centers has done little to reduce crime or make people feel safer, according to a government study released Thursday.

The government, which spent \$325 million on closed-circuit cameras between 1998 and 2003, said it has no plans to fund any more.

For the Home Office-funded study, academics from the University of Leicester studied 14 closed-circuit TV systems in a variety of settings, including town centers, parking lots, hospitals and residential areas. Only the parking lot scheme was shown to cause a fall in crime.

Fossil smuggler

BANGKOK, Thailand — A Thai man who offered dinosaur fossils and valuable antiques for sale on the Internet has been arrested for illegally trading in ancient artifacts and art, police said Friday.

Acting on a tip-off from U.S. authorities, undercover police arrested Pirya Wachachit, 25, on Monday and confiscated 108 large dinosaur fossils and five boxes containing smaller pieces from his home in Bangkok, said police Lt. Gen. Thani Sombonsab.

Newspaper ban

BERLIN — Germany's top security official on Friday banned a Turkish-language newspaper on the grounds that it was being used as the mouthpiece of an organization to spread anti-Western and anti-Semitic hatred.

Interior Minister Otto Schily said he banned the Anadolu Vakit newspaper and its parent Yeni Akit GmbH organization because even as prosecutors investigated and applied pressure, the publication "markedly increased the intensity of and frequency of the articles with racial hatred content."

Illegal cigarettes

CHERBOURG, France — Authorities in northern France seized 2.8 tons of cigarettes that were hidden inside cartons of oranges in a British truck, the French customs agency said Wednesday.

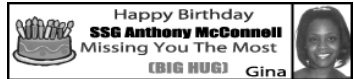
Some 14,150 cartons of cigarettes, valued at \$933,500, were found Sunday inside the fruit boxes when the truck was stopped at the port of Cherbourg as it headed to Britain.

The vehicle was coming from Spain.

From The Associated Press



"Little Boy," a gang member, stands Friday behind a prison cell with other gang members in San Bartolo, El Salvador. Despite concerns, U.S. officials say there's no evidence gangs are turning to terrorism.



Few in U.S. think foreign gangs will turn to terror

The Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Mike Figueroa stood before a room full of U.S. and Central American law enforcement officials and admitted to being a gang member, a criminal, a drug addict and a dealer. But no matter what officials might think, he said, he and others like him will never be terrorists.

The increasing mobility and violence of gang members who often sneak into the United States has raised concerns that the groups could be exploited by terrorists, feeding claims by local governments that al-Qaida might tap into the region's growing problem.

But U.S. and Central American officials who have investigated the allegations say there is no evidence linking gangs like the Mara Salvatrucha to terrorist activity. Analysts and even gang members themselves say the idea is far-fetched.

"There's never been anything like that," said Figueroa, a 35-year-old former member of the gang.

Born in Los Angeles among Salvadoran migrants, the gang problem spread to Central America in the mid-1990s as members were

deported for crimes like carrying a weapon or homicide. Members often return, sneaking back into the United States.

The FBI and other federal officials have taken a growing interest in the problem, with U.S. immigration and customs officials tracking deportations and resulting returns. Many gang members

now control migrant routes in southern Mexico, the first stop on a long trip north to the United States.

But U.S. federal officials at a law enforcement conference in San Salvador said they have found no evidence to support claims by Honduran security officials and even Salvadoran President Tony Saca that the gangs could eventually be linked to terrorists.

"I'm not aware of any confirmed ties to terrorism," said Kevin Kozak, an assistant special agent for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Long Beach, California.

Still, Saca opened the conference — a Monday-Wednesday event that included nearly 20 U.S. federal agents from the FBI and U.S. Customs and Immigration — by announcing that he could not rule out the possibility that the country's widespread gang problem had ties to terrorists.

"I'm not aware of any confirmed ties to terrorism."

Kevin Kozak
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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ELITE

IN THE STATES

Cushman kills ex-wife, bystander

The Associated Press

TYLER, Texas — A man angered over a child support dispute with his ex-wife opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle outside the Smith County Courthouse, killing her and a man who tried to stop the bloodshed.

Before police killed the gunman a few miles away Thursday afternoon, three law enforcement officers and the man's son, who had been acting as a mediator between his parents, lay wounded on the historic courthouse square.

Police estimated David Hernandez Arroyo Sr., who had a history of spousal abuse and weapons violations, shot 50 rounds outside the courthouse. Arroyo, 43, wore a military flight jacket and a bulletproof vest.

"He definitely came well-armed and prepared. We do understand there had been

Attack outside Texas courthouse leaves 4 wounded

some threats made by him the previous week," Police Chief Gary Swindle said.

But Joshua Winters, an attorney who represented 41-year-old Maribel Estrada, said he doesn't believe she thought her ex-husband was dangerous. Estrada worked at a meat packing plant in Tyler and raised a 17-year-old and a 6-year-old with the help of her eldest son, Winters said.

Estrada and Mark Alan Wilson, 52, died in the gunfire. Smith County Sheriff's Deputy Sherman Dollison, 28, was in critical condition at East Texas Medical Center on Friday morning after being shot four times — in the liver, lungs and legs. The man's son, 23-year-old David Hernandez Arroyo Jr., was

shot in the legs and was in fair condition Friday. A sheriff's lieutenant and a Tyler police detective were treated and released.

Friends who visited the son in the hospital Thursday night said he told them that his father was always open about having a collection of weapons. The younger Arroyo said his father told him not to be afraid to use the guns if he were threatened, the friends said.

Aurea Senear said the son told them, "And look now, he used them on us."

Wilson was credited with saving the son's life.

"One of the deputies at the scene said if it hadn't been for Mr. Wilson, the son would be dead," Sheriff J.B. Smith said.



David Hernandez Arroyo Sr.

Where have all the shoulder-fired missiles gone?

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It has been known for years that thousands of light and lethal shoulder-fired missiles are in black-market circulation. What is not known is exactly who has them and whether many have fallen into the hands of terrorists or criminals.

A welcome puzzle it explains why the United States and Russia signed an agreement Thursday to cooperate in destroying surplus Soviet-era SA-7s and other portable anti-aircraft missiles. The smallest of these are lightweight, relatively cheap and easy to smuggle.

The United States also has longstanding ties with several other countries, including Nicaragua, Bosnia, Cambodia and Liberia, for Washington to provide technical assistance or money to destroy anti-aircraft missiles.

The State Department estimates that about 1 million shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles have been produced worldwide since the 1950s. The number believed to be in the hands of "nonstate actors," such as terrorist groups, is "in the thousands," the department says.

"What's driving this is concern about the threat to commercial aviation," said Wade

Boese, research director at the private Arms Control Association. A single successful missile attack on a passenger plane could paralyze the airline industry, at enormous economic loss, he said.

There has been only one known attempt against a commercial airliner outside of a war zone. In November 2002, two surface-to-air missiles barely missed an Israeli charter airliner taking off from the airport in Mombasa, Kenya, with tourists returning to Israel. Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network claimed responsibility for the attempt.

The U.S.-Russian agreement signed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and De-

fense Minister Sergei Ivanov calls for sharing information about exports of these missiles to third countries.

Of note, Boese said, is the absence of a commitment by either Washington or Moscow to halt the exports.

The United States began selling its Stinger shoulder-fired missile to foreign countries in 1982. The CIA secretly transferred an estimated 2,000 to Afghanistan mujahideen rebels in the mid-1980s, and they were used to down hundreds of Soviet helicopters and transport aircraft.

There also are an unknown number of SA-7s and other types of shoulder-fired missiles in the hands of insurgents in Iraq.

Texas study: Black, Hispanic drivers stopped at higher rates

BY KELLEY SHANNON

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Two out of three Texas law enforcement agencies searched black and Hispanic drivers at higher rates than white motorists at traffic stops in 2003, according to a racial profiling study released Thursday.

When searched, however, white motorists were at least as likely as blacks or Hispanics to be found with illegal items such as drugs or weapons, the report found.

The data were compiled from information more than 1,000 Texas law enforcement departments were required to record under state law. Most of the agencies responded to public information requests for the study.

The findings show large disparities between minority and white motorists who were stopped and searched, said Scott Henson, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. "Now the question becomes: Why is that?" he said.

James McLaughlin Jr., executive director of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, said he hadn't seen the study, but that the findings didn't sound new.

"It's a replay of the reports that



Gary Bledsoe, president of the NAACP of Texas, on Thursday discusses a study on racial profiling that claims that two out of three Texas law enforcement agencies reported searching blacks and Hispanics at higher rates than whites.

were put out a year or so ago," he said.

Such studies are generally flawed, he said, because they don't take into account factors such as the time of day a stop is made, the part of town and other variables.

The study's recommendations include adopting uniform report-

ing standards for racial profiling data; requiring extra data to be collected by police agencies; and establishing an independent statewide repository for reports.

The report also recommended banning consent searches — when an officer seeks a motorist's permission to do a search to look for illegal items, even if there is no probable cause.

Connecticut legislative panel backs civil unions

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut's legislature moved closer to legalizing civil unions for same-sex couples, as a key panel approved a measure that would make it the first state in the country to recognize gay unions through legislative action rather than court order.

The legislature's Joint Judiciary Committee voted 25-13 to pass a bill Wednesday that would give gay and lesbian couples the same state rights as married heterosexuals, except for the right to obtain a marriage license.

Proponents said Thursday the civil unions measure has bipartisan support among lawmakers and will likely pass the House and Senate by early June, when the session ends.

Former Steeler Swann readying for campaign

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Former Pittsburgh Steelers star Lynn Swann has formed a campaign committee to raise money for a potential run for governor in 2006.

Swann named his committee Team 88, the number he wore as a wide receiver for the Steelers from 1974 to 1982, when the team won four Super Bowls.

On Wednesday, Swann filed papers to form a campaign committee for governor, which allows him to begin raising money for a campaign.

Winter storm blankets Northeast

A winter storm blanketed the Northeast on Thursday, forcing the federal government and schools around the region to close early and triggering a spate of accidents during the afternoon rush hour.

The snow coated an area that included Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, and was expected to move north later in the day. Several cities reported accumulations of about 6 inches, and some were bracing for up to 9 inches.

In New Jersey, trains were unusually crowded and passengers slipped on unshoveled platforms. Planes were reported delayed by up to two hours at Newark airport. Several accidents reduced traffic on New Jersey's clogged roads to a crawl.

The forecast amounts would push 2004-05 snowfall totals past the seasonal average in most places in New Jersey.

Drivers in the nation's capital found mostly wet road conditions as pavement temperatures hovered just above freezing most of the day. About 1,500 road crews in Maryland were salting the roads.

From The Associated Press

Homeland Security panel angers privacy advocates

Some say members lack necessary knowledge

BY LESLIE MILLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Privacy advocates say a committee set up recently to advise the Homeland Security Department on privacy issues amounts to little more than a fox guarding a chicken coop.

One member works for a high-tech company that distributed software that many computer users complained contained adware.

Another works for a conglomerate whose subsidiary turned over personal records of airline passengers to a government contractor.

A third works for a defense contractor from which thieves stole personal information on thousands of employees, making them vulnerable to identity theft.

Bruce Schneier, chief technology officer of Counterpane Internet Security, a Mountain View, Calif., computer security company, and author of "Beyond Fear," said he looked at the 20-member list and laughed.

"It's just plain weird," Schneier said Thursday. "Where are all the privacy people?"

Homeland Security Chief Privacy Officer Nuala O'Connor Kelly said the committee repre-

sents a cross-section of viewpoints, including people who have criticized the department.

"We picked the best board from the people who applied," said Kelly, adding that more than 130 people applied for the committee that she announced Wednesday.

Privacy is a sensitive issue for the Homeland Security Department as it embarks on ambitious

plans to look into the backgrounds of everyone who boards a plane, enters the country or works in the transportation industry.

But some committee members have had their own problems with information privacy and security. They in-

cluded Samuel Wright, senior vice president of Candiant Corp. Candiant owns Galileo, a computer reservation system that turned passenger records over to a government contractor without their permission or knowledge, according to testimony last year by Transportation Security Administration chief David Stone.

Joseph Leo, vice president of Science Applications International Corp. Thieves stole computers containing personal information on tens of thousands of employees of SAIC, a defense

contractor involved in some of the U.S. government's most sensitive work.

D. Reed Freeman, chief privacy officer for Claria Corp. In February 2003, Claria, then known as Gator, settled a suit brought by The New York Times, The Washington Post and other media companies for installing unauthorized pop-up ads on their Web sites.

Freeman, who worked in privacy enforcement at the Federal Trade Commission, went to Claria after the company got into trouble for its practices, Kelly said.

But privacy advocates say the list doesn't include what they call the "usual suspects" from their own ranks.

"The chickens have quite a number of foxes in there," said Bill Scannell, who manages the Privacy Web site UnSecureFlight.com.

Despite the criticism, Kelly pointed to several privacy advocates on the board: Tara Lemney, former executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy rights group; David Hoffman, a George Washington University professor; and James Harper, editor of Privacy.org and a self-described critic of government surveillance.

The committee will meet four times a year and set its own agenda, Kelly said.

Flight 93 memorial designers meet

SOMERSET, Pa. — The designers who gathered Thursday at the Somerset Historical Center believe they have come up with an idea for a national memorial that will not only represent what happened in the sky and on the ground on Sept. 11, 2001, but also communicate the story decades from now.

Representatives from the five groups of finalists in the Flight 93 national memorial design competition met not far from the crash site near Shanksville to gather information that could help them flesh out their design concepts. The finalists have until June 15 to submit more detailed plans to a second jury, which will select a winning design by Sept. 11.

Boy dies in Calif. gang shooting

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Gang members opened fire on a group of students a block from a high school Thursday, killing an 11th grader and injuring another boy, police said.

No arrests were made but there are "some very good leads," Sgt. David Cannan said. The identities of the victims and their ages were not immediately released.

Cannan said about 10 students were walking away from Cabrillo High School about 1:30 p.m. after classes had ended for the day when they were confronted by a group of gang members.

Maintenance worker shoots boss

LOS ANGELES — A street maintenance worker who had reportedly been reprimanded for coming in late shot and killed his boss and another employee, authorities said.

Kansas attorney general seeking abortion records

The Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — The Kansas attorney general, a staunch opponent of abortion, has demanded the medical records of nearly 90 women and girls who had late-term abortions, saying he needs the material to investigate crimes.

The two abortion clinics involved in the case say the state has no right to such personal information and are fighting the request in the Kansas Supreme Court.

But Attorney General Phill Kline insisted Thursday he needs the records because he has "the duty to investigate and prosecute child rape and other crimes in order to protect Kansas children."

Sex involving someone under 16 is illegal in Kansas, and it is illegal in the state for doctors to perform an abortion after 22 weeks unless there is reason to believe it is needed to protect the mother's health.

The clinics argued that unless the high court intervenes, women who obtained abortions could

find government agents knocking at their door.

The clinics said Kline demanded their complete medical records for women and girls who

sought abortions at least 22 weeks into their pregnancies in 2003. Court papers did not identify the clinics.

The records sought include the patient's name, medical history, details of her sex life, birth control practices and psychological profile.

The clinics are offering to provide records with some key information edited out.

On Oct. 21, state District Judge Richard Anderson ruled that Kline could have the files. The clinics then filed an appeal with the high court. No hearing has been scheduled.



Kline



A black box flight recorder is displayed at the United Nations in this 2004 photo. The black boxes that help determine the causes of airline crashes will have to hold more data and be more reliable, the Federal Aviation Administration said Thursday.

FAA nixes cockpit cameras, mandates better black boxes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — No video cameras would be required in airliner cockpits under proposed federal regulations, but the black boxes collecting flight information must be capable of holding far more data for use in crash investigations, the Federal Aviation Administration says.

The National Transportation Safety Board had recommended that aircraft be required to have video cameras. Some pilots, however, have expressed concerns about invasion of privacy and contended the constant presence of a camera could make it harder to do their jobs.

Although the FAA rejected the video camera requirement, it called for stricter requirements for the black boxes. The NTSB, which investigates crashes, had lobbied for more data gathering in cockpits.

Safety investigators have cited the failure of black boxes to yield useful information about several fatal airliner accidents, including the 1998 crash of Swissair Flight 111 off the coast of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the 1999 crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 off the Massachusetts coast.

In those two accidents, the black boxes shut off before the planes crashed.

The suspect, who was not immediately identified, then drove himself to a police station and surrendered Thursday night. Police found an AK-47 rifle in his car.

The Los Angeles Times quoted sources as saying that the man had been admonished for being late Thursday morning, and the dispute escalated throughout the day. The man left work in the afternoon and came back with a gun, police said.

The victims worked for the city's Bureau of Street Services for more than 20 years, police said.

Cash-toting justice robbed

CLEVELAND — An Ohio Supreme Court justice had \$18,000 of his money stolen from his state-issued car while he was being honored at a high school dinner, authorities said.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell, 59, told police the theft occurred Feb. 16 in the Flats riverfront entertainment district, where he parked his car for the St. Edward High School event.

O'Donnell, 59, received the school's 2004 Alumnus of the Year honor.

When he returned to the car, a window was smashed and the money and a briefcase were missing, according to a police report.

He said he keeps large amounts of cash at home and had planned to deposit the money in a checking account to pay for home repairs.

From The Associated Press



O'Donnell

FedEx cracks down

PIKEVILLE, Ky. — FedEx Corp. has stopped delivering packages from online pharmacies to portions of eastern Kentucky where prescription drug abuse has become widespread.

"We don't tolerate the use of our system for illegal purposes," said Ryan Furby, a spokesman for the global shipping giant based in Memphis, Tenn. Deliveries in some communities stopped two weeks ago, he said, and people who order drugs online must go to a FedEx station in London, Ky., to pick them up.

Drug dealers and abusers have increasingly turned to ordering prescriptions from unlicensed Internet pharmacies as law enforcement agencies crack down on local doctors who prescribe pills without legitimate medical reasons.

Furby said he doesn't know when FedEx will resume deliveries in the areas hardest hit by the prescription drug epidemic. He said deliveries stopped "because of the sensitivities of where they're originating and the possible contents of the packages."

Mingled remains

SEABROOK, N.H. — An unlicensed crematorium that may have mingled human remains took bodies from Maine and Rhode Island as well as Massachusetts and New Hampshire, a court document showed Friday.

Most of the bodies cremated at Bayview Crematorium came from Massachusetts, but some of the dozens of cremation certificates from last year viewed by investigators were for bodies from other states, a search warrant application in Hampton District Court says. State Police Detective Jill Rocky requested the cremation, which led to the closure of Bayview this week.

A search revealed two bodies being cremated in the same oven, which Rockingham County Attorney Jim Reams called appalling and unethical.

Writer's widow talks

ASPEN, Colo. — The widow of journalist Hunter S. Thompson said her husband killed himself while the two were talking on the phone.

"I was on the phone with him, he set the receiver down and I heard a click of the click of the gun," Anita Thompson told the Aspen Daily News in Friday's editions.

She said her husband had asked her to come home from a health club so they could work on his weekly ESPN column — but instead of saying goodbye, he set the phone down and shot himself.

Thompson said she heard a loud, muffled noise, but didn't know what had happened. "I was waiting for him to get back on the phone," she said.

Hunter Thompson, famous for "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" and other works of New Journalism, shot himself in the head Sunday in the kitchen of his Aspen-area home. He was 67.

From The Associated Press

Bridge suicide barrier considered

About 1,300 have killed themselves on Golden Gate Bridge since it opened

By TERENCE CHESA

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Golden Gate Bridge officials moved closer to building a barrier to prevent people from jumping off the famous suspension bridge, where about 1,300 people have killed themselves since the landmark opened in 1937.

Officials voted Thursday to develop a plan and explore funding for the suicide barrier after hearing emotional testimony from friends and family of people who jumped off the iconic bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County.

The decision by a committee of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District still must be approved by the district's board of directors when it meets March 11.

All the nearly 20 people who testified Thursday urged committee members to reject the barrier.

"I don't want one more family member to go through this pain," said Terry Oxford of San Jose, whose 26-year-old daughter, Jennifer, jumped to her death last

week. "She chose this bridge because it was accessible."

An average of 20 people a year commit suicide by picking themselves over the bridge's 4½-foot-high rail. Four have already done so this year.

"This is the place where the most preventable suicides occur," said Eve Meyer, executive director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention. "These are the most impulsive, least planned and least strategized suicides."

Building a suicide barrier on the bridge has been suggested for decades, but the idea gained momentum earlier this year when bridge officials learned that a filmmaker had filmed 19 people jumping off the bridge. Eric Steel said the bridge district had intended to "capture the grandeur of the bridge but ended up making a movie about its history of suicides."

Earlier this week, district staff members said it would take about two years and \$2 million to develop a plan for the barrier and another two years to build it. The cost of the barrier depends on the design.



The Golden Gate Bridge is shown from Fort Point in San Francisco. A committee is recommending that a study be conducted to look into the feasibility of installing suicide barriers on the Golden Gate Bridge.

Shuttle commander is ready for mission

Collins unsure of repair techniques

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The commander of the first mission since space shuttle Columbia broke apart two years ago said she's ready to return to orbit, but still is uncertain about in-flight repair techniques developed so far.

"There is still more testing to be done," space shuttle Discovery Commander Eileen Collins said Thursday while standing on the deck of the space center's neutral buoyancy lab — an indoor pool that contains mock-ups of the shuttle and International Space Station where astronauts practice spacewalks.

Collins and her crew on Thursday practiced the second of three spacewalks scheduled for their mission, in which mission specialists Soichi Noguchi and Steve Roberson will replace one of the space station's four gyroscopes. The gyroscopes, one of which hasn't worked since 2002, control the station's orientation.

The mission, set to launch May 15, will test new external tank designs, processes to minimize damaging debris during launch, new ground and camera flight systems to detect damage, and techniques for in-flight inspection and repair of shuttle tile.

It will be the first time U.S. astronauts have returned to space on a shuttle since the Columbia disaster Feb. 1, 2003.

"The one big thing we have



Shuttle Commander Eileen Collins, left, talks with astronaut Stephen Robinson as he prepares for underwater training.

over Columbia we'll know the health of our vehicle," said shuttle pilot Jim Kelly.

During Columbia's doomed flight, a piece of fuel-tank foam pierced one of the thermal panels along the edge of the left wing, causing a gas that led to the shuttle's destruction during re-entry. "Now we have to launch with the faith that we fixed the external tank," Collins said. "I don't think we are going to have any damage to the exterior of the shuttle, but we could. So we do have these techniques on board."

Those repair techniques, which would occur during a spacewalk, include affixing a patch to cover a hole or applying a special goo to fill any cracks. "I'm not sure if I am ready to say, 'Yes, I would fly home on any of those repair techniques,'" Collins said.

"I would really like to see them tested."

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ads featuring Olympic gold-medal skater Dorothy Hamill helped send sales of the prescription pain reliever Vioxx soaring. And a catchy tune reminding arthritis sufferers that taking Celebrex would have them celebrating cemented its spot in the pantheon of drugs with yearly revenues of more than \$1 billion.

The ads prompted millions of patients to ask for and get a class of specialized medicines most really didn't need — and that now have been linked to an increased risk of heart attack and strokes.

That reality is casting a harsh spotlight on pharmaceutical advertising, which has become ubiquitous since federal regulators relaxed rules in 1997, paving the way for medicines to be promoted on television.

Ad executives and drug companies often are using in advertising strategies are almost a certainty in the wake of the Vioxx and Celebrex news and new studies showing a consumer backlash. Commercial features active, happy people with only an obligatory discussion of side effects are not doing enough to explain the inherent risk in taking drugs, experts said.

Celebris has been a big wake up call for pharmaceutical companies," said Frank Ginsberg, chairman of Avrett Free Ginsberg, a New York-based ad agency. "I think there will be some dramatic changes."

Only 18 percent of consumers believe pharmaceutical ads can be trusted "most of the time," ac-

Plugging drugs

The prescription drugs that manufacturers spent the most promotional money on in 2004, according to IMS Health:

Loxaprop, Forest Pharmaceuticals	\$169.5 million
Celebrex, Pfizer	130.2
Crestor, AstraZeneca	125.0
Bextra, Pfizer	121.2
Lipitor, Pfizer	114.4
Advair Diskus, GlaxoSmithKline	107.1
Vioxx, Merck	96.5
NOTE: Includes costs of sales representatives directed to physicians and pharmacies, as well as costs of advertising in medical journals	
Zoflo, Pfizer	95.0
Nexium, AstraZeneca	92.3
Singulair, Merck	92.3

SOURCE: IMS Health

coring to a study released Friday by the Kaiser Family Foundation. That's down by almost half since 1997, when one-third of people surveyed said you could trust ads most of the time.

Meanwhile, a study by Iposon-Insight Corp. found that consumer response to pharmaceutical advertising has been steadily declining since 2002. Last August, 19 percent of those surveyed said an ad prompted them to call or visit a doctor. That's down from 25 percent in February 2002.

Teachers: Raises needed to keep educators

BY KELLEY SHANNON

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Long after the last school bell rings, first-grade teacher Kim Thonhoff is buying trinkets for her students.

Stephanie Reed is shopping, too, spending \$40 on math books, posters and other supplies for her first-grade classroom.

They aren't alone.

Public school educators in Texas frequently spend their own money at education supply stores — even though many of them can't afford it. Some of those teachers are critical of lawmakers, saying they need to pay teachers more or lose them to more lucrative fields.

"I really do think that the Legislature needs to put some money into teacher salaries, and they need to upgrade the professional status of the teacher," Thonhoff said. "People really don't appreciate much of what a teacher does."

Teacher salaries are part of the equation as lawmakers wrestle with public school funding, contemplating putting billions more dollars into the education system. Some teachers' groups are pushing for a raise for all teachers. Republican legislative leaders are steering toward incentive pay based on performance or local needs.

A survey by the American Federation of Teachers shows that Texas salaries were

\$5,799 less than the national average for the 2002-03 school year, the most recent year for which data is available. That put Texas 30th in the nation, at an average of \$39,972.

California led the nation. South Dakota was last.

In Texas, state-mandated minimum pay starts at \$24,240 for a 10-month contract for beginning teachers. It goes up to \$33,730 for 10 years of experience and \$40,800 for 20 years or more. Some districts pay higher. The statewide average for beginning teachers in 2002-03 was \$31,874, slightly above the national average, according to the federation survey.

The Texas Federation of Teachers is asking lawmakers for a \$3,000 across-the-board raise as part of a school finance package, although that still wouldn't put teachers at the national salary average, said federation president John Cole.

The Texas teachers' federation says it would support some incentives, including extra pay for experienced teachers who move to hard-to-staff schools or for specialists in fields without enough teachers.

But the Texas federation opposes linking raises to student scores on standardized tests. Teachers can get a federal income tax credit for purchasing supplies, but many say it's common to spend more than that credit amount.



Kim Thonhoff, a first-grade school teacher, purchases educational supplies for her students last week in Austin, Texas. Public school teachers frequently spend their own money at education supply stores. Some Texas teachers are quick to criticize state lawmakers for not boosting their pay despite such expenditures. Texas teachers' salaries are below the national average.

AP

Frank Lloyd Wright homes for sale

Status of buildings by architect Frank Lloyd Wright and the asking price:

■ Lindholm Service Station, Cloquet, Minn. \$725,000



■ Wyoming Valley Grammar School, Spring Green, Wis. Withdrawn



■ Dr. George & Millie Albin Hse., Bakersfield, Calif. \$1.6 mil.

■ Eric Pratt Hse., Galesburg, Mich. \$375,000



■ Donald & Mary Lou Schaberg Hse., Okemos, Mich. \$1.6 mil.

■ Andrew B. & Maude Cooke Hse., Virginia Beach, Va. \$2.5 mil.



■ Emil Bach House, Chicago To be auctioned

■ S.A. Foster House, Chicago Sold



■ Charles F. Glorie Hse., Lake Forest, Ill. \$2.2 mil.

■ Charles E. Roberts Stable, Oak Park, Ill. \$895,000

SOURCE: Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy

AP

Wright home to be auctioned

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — If you think selling a house designed by the most famous architect in American history is easy, think again.

After several months on the market, a 1915 Frank Lloyd Wright house on Chicago's North Side is going on the auction block, with bids starting at \$750,000. A few years ago, another Wright house sold at auction in Cincinnati for only about \$400,000.

"There was always a relatively small market for them," said Ronald Scherubel, executive director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy. "Even when he [Wright] was alive they weren't for everybody."

But the hard sell on Wright houses

runs deeper than their historical lack of appeal. First, owners often can't remodel or even paint the houses without permission from some government official.

Chicago designated the four-bedroom Emil Bach House a landmark in 1977, so both the city and the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois must now sign off on any substantial changes, Scherubel said.

"That house is really intended to stay that house," said Frank Dilberto, senior vice president of Inland Real Estate Auction, which is handling the March 8 sale.

Then, there's the way Wright laid out his Frank-style houses and their size — usually on the small side. Unlike modern houses, with their roomy kitchens and bed-

rooms, Wright built homes with spacious living rooms and dining areas. Kitchens were simply places to prepare food and bedrooms were just for sleeping.

Some of Wright's early homes also have developed expensive structural problems, such as sagging roofs. Scherubel said the Emil Bach House didn't appear to have those problems.

The biggest problem the Emil Bach House might have is its location. When it was built, it was a country home with a Lake Michigan view. Today, it's on a busy street lined with apartments and businesses.

But Inland's Dilberto says the neighborhood won't dissuade people who want to own one of just 380 Wright houses in the United States.

Closed Poconos lodge sells all, even heart-shaped tubs

The Associated Press

MOUNT POCONO, Pa. — Heart-shaped bathtub, anyone? More than 80 of them will be auctioned off next month, along with Engelbert Humperdinck's gold-painted headboard and thousands of other items from the once-celebrated Mount Airy Lodge.

Closed since 2001 because of financial problems, Mount Airy is now boarded up and falling apart. Owner Louis DeNaples wants to sell pretty much everything that isn't bolted down — and some things that are.

Auctioneer Bob Teel expects the March 5-6 sale to attract antique dealers, hoteliers and restaurateurs, and nostalgia-seekers who stayed at Mount Airy, once the largest resort in the Poconos.

"This sale has generated tremendous interest, not only be-

cause of the items but because of the history," he said.

Mount Airy had its heyday in the 1960s and '70s, when it grossed upward of \$50 million a year and sold more liquor than any other licensee in Pennsylvania. Some of the biggest names in show business appeared there regularly, from Humperdinck to Bob Hope to Tony Bennett. DeNaples, a Scranton-area businessman, recently bought the lodge for more than \$25 million, and he is widely expected to apply for a slot-machine casino license.

Items to be sold next month include about 260 RCA 27-inch televisions, commercial-grade restaurant equipment, crystal chandeliers, disco balls, paddle boats and a nine-hole miniature golf course. And, of course, the heart-shaped bathtubs, although buyers should have plenty of dis-infectant ready.

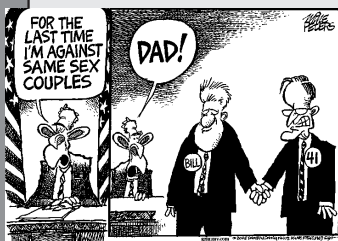


AP

A heart-shaped bath tub from the Mount Airy Lodge in Mount Pocono, Pa., will be one of more than 80 of the tubs among items auctioned off on March 5 and 6.

Looking at the news

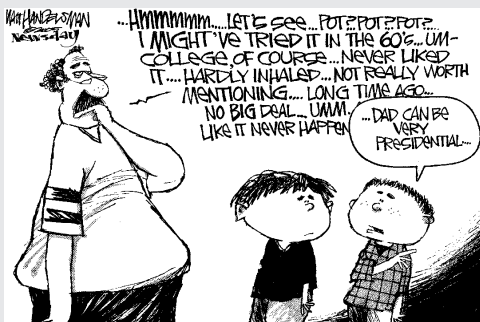
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



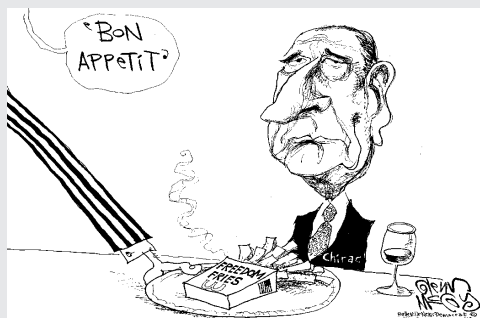
MIKE PETERS/King Features Syndicate



WALT HANDELMAN/Tribune Media Services



WALT HANDELMAN/Tribune Media Services



GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate



PAT OLIPHANT/Universal Press Syndicate

49 cats, 1 trailer

ME LAGRANGE — Two residents of a trailer from which Humane Society agents removed 49 sick cats have been charged with cruelty to animals.

Mary Delgizzi, 44, and Robert Venti, 54, are to appear March 1 in Lincoln District Court on the charge, a Class D offense punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000, according to Penobscot County Deputy District Attorney Michael Roberts. Animal Welfare Program officials last week described the mobile home as "a giant litter box" with layers of feces and cat urine covering the floor and a horrible stench pervading the trailer.

Toot-wrong prompts suit

FL SANFORD — Call it flatulent footwear.

Customers complained that with every step, their shoes made the sound of someone passing gas.

"They were whoopie cushions for your feet," said Bryan Thomas, an officer with shoe maker Goosebumps Products Inc.

The Orlando-area company sued a supplier, accusing it of delivering the wrong chemical for an insole gel, giving the shoes an unwanted sound effect.

"It's very nearly put us out of business," Thomas said.

The suit claims Bell Chem Corp. of Longwood delivered a low-grade glycerin that was watered down in late 2002 and early 2003. That caused air bubbles to form inside the insoles, it said.

Location mixup

NM CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK — This natural wonderland made it onto a list of 10 favorite hidden parks — but the list hid it even more, by locating it in Arizona.

The Coalition of National Park Service Retreats released a list of members' favorite parks, but accidentally listed the archaeological site in Arizona instead of Chaco Canyon.

The 400-member group discovered the mistake and fixed it, said coalition coordinator Bill Wade.

"That mistake slipped through several reviewers, but really, we know it's in New Mexico," Wade said.

Man guilty of child porn

MD BALTIMORE — A man pictured molesting a young boy in an image distributed over the Internet pleaded guilty to sexually exploiting the boy for the purpose of producing child pornography.

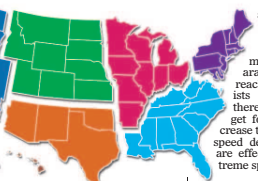
Thomas R. Evered, 39, a truck driver from Lolo, Mont., faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine, according to the U.S. attorney's office. He faces a minimum sentence of 15 years.

According to court papers, an FBI agent in Miami downloaded a file in 2003 from the Internet that showed a man and a boy engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Butt burns back

CA SAN FRANCISCO — No fish, and no butts about it. Jonathan Fish learned an expensive lesson about the dangers of littering.

The 20-year-old was cruising



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

across the upper deck of the Bay Bridge smoking a cigarette. He rolled down the window of his white 2004 Ford Expedition SUV and tossed out the butt, authorities said.

Instead of bounding along the pavement, however, the still-lit cigarette blew back and set the interior of Fish's \$30,000 SUV ablaze, he told police.

Fish pulled over to the far left-hand lane and leaped from the Expedition. Fish had his hair singed but was otherwise unharmed.

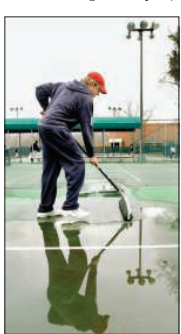
Super speeders targeted

ME AUGUSTA — Law enforcement officials are looking at ways to get extreme speeders to slow down on Maine roads.

Last year, police wrote 1,662 tickets to motorists for speeding 30 mph or more over the posted speed limit, according to the Maine Judicial Information System. That's a 23 percent increase over the number of tickets issued in 2001 for going 30 mph or more over the limit.

It's not unusual for troopers to be stopping motorists going 30, 40 or even 50 miles an hour over the speed limit on Interstate 95, said Col. Craig Poulin, chief of the Maine State Police.

"We have had people stopped going well over 100 miles an hour, and it is becoming more frequent,"



Mopping up

Anderson College men's tennis assistant coach James Fitzgerald of Anderson, S.C., pushes standing water around one of the courts. Rain soaked the courts, but not enough to keep the team from practicing for a weekend match.

said Col. Craig Poulin, chief of the Maine State Police.

Public Safety Commissioner Michael Capra called the speeds reached by some motorists "obscene." He said there is money in the budget for state police to increase the number of aircraft speed details, which he said are effective in catching extreme speeders.

Cockfight ban nixed

NM SANTA FE — A state Senate committee rejected a proposal to ban cockfighting, making it unlikely the sport will be outlawed this year in one of only two states where it is still legal.

The Conservation Committee voted 6-2 to table the proposal after nearly three hours of impassioned testimony.

One committee member called the proposed ban a "ridiculous" waste of legislative time. "This is what you call a rural vs. urban issue," Sen. Phil Griego said.

The state House approved a ban in 2003, and a similar bill is pending there this year, but even if it passed the House, it would still run into trouble in the Senate.

Louisiana is the only other state where cockfighting is legal.

Alcohol in the park

HI HONOLULU — The City Council is considering a bill that would allow now-prohibited alcohol sales in three city parks. The proposal would give private contractors the ability to sell alcohol in exchange for assuming maintenance and security costs at the Central Oahu Regional Park, Waipio Soccer Complex and Hana L'O-ran Park.

Sharp nose seeks home

PA LANSFORD — A drug-sniffing German shepherd named Ajax needs a new home, after his human partner pleaded guilty to civil rights violations in a drug-planting scheme.

Lansford borough made the difficult decision to sell the dog because it would be too expensive to train another police officer about what commands to use and when to use them, Lansford council President Robert Gaughan said.

"To retrain another officer, we're looking at \$3,000 to \$6,000 till everything is all said and done," Gaughan said.

Ajax, bred and trained in Germany, cost \$21,000. He was donated to the borough in 2002 but Gaughan said the borough has not used him often.

KKK auction causes stir

MI HOWELL — A businessman who drew criticism from community and civil rights leaders for holding an auction of Ku Klux Klan items plans to hold another auction of similar materials, including a Klan robe.

Gary Gray of the Ole Gray Nash Auction House told WHMI-AM/ FM that he will auction off nearly a dozen Klan-related items April 9. Gray, 51, said publicity surrounding the first auction prompted many calls from people who had Klan-related items to sell.

The NAACP branch in neighboring Oakland County and other civil rights groups have blasted the auction as insensitive. Community and business groups also have said the auctions do nothing to fix Howell's racist reputation.



Sweet taste

A honeybee searches for nectar in a crocus in Bridgewater, Va.



Dog rescue

A Cambridge, Ohio, firefighter rescues one of two dogs from a burning home in Cambridge.



Recess flashback

Jonathan Osterbrock, a University of Colorado senior, right, watches his pass to Sam Huntington, a junior, left, in front of referee P.J. Petersen, a senior, during a game of four square near the Dalton Trumbo Fountain at the University Memorial Center in Boulder, Colo.



Creative covering

Tom Kurimski uses a little creativity to keep himself dry as he walks along Valley Drive in Las Cruces, N.M., by putting on bubble wrap.



Too big for his tractor

Miami East High School sophomore Ryan Rice peddles through an obstacle course at Miami East High School in Cassstown, Ohio, as students celebrate Future Farmers of America Week.



Head over heels

Ten-year-old Erin Haley of Bowling Green, Ky., finds a unique way to watch a basketball game between Warren Central High School and Allen County-Scottsville High School in Scottsville, Ky.



Flying through flurries

As snow falls, a flock of Canada geese comes in for a landing at Veteran's Park in Woodbridge, Va.

Smoking mom spared jail

VA BOWLING GREEN — A woman forbidden by a judge from smoking around her two children admitted she violated the order but was spared a 10-day jail sentence.

Tamara Silvius was held in contempt of the order by a juvenile and domestic relations judge in August but appealed the sentence to Caroline Circuit Court. The no-smoking order was part of a shared child custody agreement. Tuesday, Circuit Judge Horace A. Revercomb III suspended the jail term as part of a plea deal between the prosecutor and Silvius' attorney.

Silvius shares custody of her children, ages 8 and 10, with her ex-husband. As a condition of visitation rights, a judge barred her from smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol around her children.

Tiny fish get big pond

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The city of Albuquerque and environmental groups reached a settlement in a five-year legal battle over the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow.

Organizations including the Sierra Club and National Audubon Society agreed to pursue no further legal action against the city in exchange for measures they said will help the tiny fish species to survive.

The minnow's primary habitat is the Rio Grande south of Albuquerque, a stretch of the river that sometimes runs dry because of drought and the need to provide water under interstate contracts.

Under the settlement, Albuquerque will set aside 30,000 acre-feet of water in a city reservoir to help preserve the minnow.

Focus on infections

MD ANNAPOLIS — Michael Bennett says his father suffered terribly before he died from fighting six kinds of hospital infections, and he doesn't want others to suffer the same way.

"He did not deserve this torture," said Bennett of his father, who entered a Baltimore-area hospital with pneumonia and died four months later after contracting the infections, including a flesh-eating bacteria that took his left leg. He was checked into five Baltimore-area hospitals before he died.

"He was betrayed by the people he trusted most — the doctors and the hospitals."

So Bennett is pushing for a state law that would require hospitals to publish reports on their infection rates. The nonprofit Consumers Union is promoting a campaign to push such legislation nationwide. The group argues hospitals will be motivated to improve their infection rates if they are required to publish reports.

Man guilty of tiger abuse

CA RIVERSIDE — A self-proclaimed animal rescuer was convicted of animal cruelty after investigators raided his compound and found dead tiger cubs stored in a freezer and dozens of tiger carcasses strewn about the property.

John Weinbart, 62, was found guilty on 56 of 61 charges, including animal cruelty and child endangerment. He could face more than

14 years in prison when he is sentenced March 22.

Investigators allegedly found 11 newborn tiger and leopard cubs lying in an attic space, 58 frozen tiger cub carcasses and the rotting or mummified carcasses of at least 30 exotic cats scattered around the property.

Investigators also found Weinbart's 8-year-old son in the trash and feces-strewn home.

TV coming to rail service

GA ATLANTA — The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority says it will be the first subway system in North America to have its rail cars equipped with televisions.

By spring, 115 MARTA cars will each have five 15-inch televisions aboard for passengers to watch while traveling. Each television will be tuned to news programming from Atlanta's ABC affiliate, WSB-TV.

MARTA will get a cut of the revenue from the advertising on the televisions and the on-train music channels.

Big trouble for Big Dig

MA BOSTON — Hundreds of tie leaks in the Big Dig tunnel could increase the project's \$14.6 billion price tag, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation inspector general.

In the Feb. 16 memo, obtained by the Boston Globe, Inspector General Kenneth M. Mead said he would not authorize release of \$81 million in federal funds for the Big Dig until he receives an accounting of how many leaks there are and how much it will cost to repair them.

The memo indicates that three months after the revelations about the tunnel leaks, the top federal overseer of the project remains unconvinced that the problem is under control.

Manure fire finally out

NE MILFORD — It took nearly four months, but to the relief of neighbors for miles around, a burning manure pile has been extinguished.

David Dickinson, owner and manager of Midwest Feeding Co., said that several weeks of pulling the 2,000-ton pile apart proved effective by late last week.

"We got far enough through it that it quit," Dickinson said.

Naked joke not funny

FL KEY WEST — A prosecutor who may have had a little too much to drink thought it would be funny to run naked across a parking lot and hop into a friend's car.

It was funny, until he jumped into the wrong car.

Albert Tasker, who works for the Monroe County State Attorney's Office, apparently got in the back seat of a car occupied by a woman waiting for her boyfriend.

The woman screamed and her boyfriend appeared.

After the woman called 911, a Key West police officer found the naked Tasker in the middle of the parking lot.

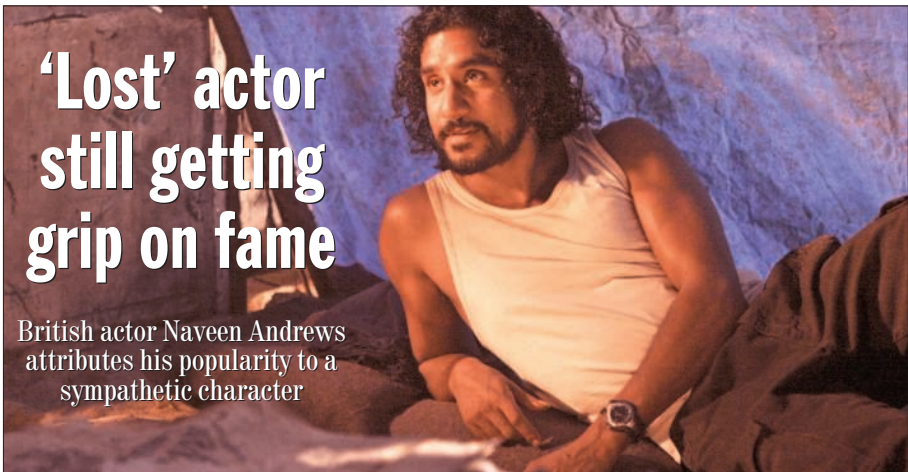
Tasker, 28, was arrested faces charges of disorderly intoxication and indecent exposure.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

FACES

'Lost' actor still getting grip on fame

British actor Naveen Andrews attributes his popularity to a sympathetic character



Courtesy of ABC

While filming the TV show "Lost" in Hawaii, Naveen Andrews hasn't had time to digest his success. But he realizes his character's Iraqi background has made it an interesting role.

BY NANCY MILLS
New York Daily News

HOLLYWOOD
On "Lost," the new ABC-TV survivor drama, we know Naveen Andrews' Sayid as a rough-hewn former member of the Iraqi Republican Guard, an electronics expert who fought in the Gulf War. He has been trapped, kidnapped, chased and accused of being a terrorist and a hero. Not a Bollywood song-and-dance man.

But in "Bride & Prejudice," a musical version of Jane Austen's classic novel opening Friday, Andrews plays Balraj Bingley, the good friend of Mr. Darcy, the story's romantic hero.

Instead of early 19th-century England, the setting is modern India. And in place of a formal ball, the actors participate in what Andrews describes as "a strange amalgamation of traditional Indian dance crossed with MC Hammer."

Andrews has more in common with Bingley than Sayid. His parents moved to England in the mid-'60s, when "there was an open-door policy," he says. "All people in Britain's former colonies could come and work on the buses or clean toilets."

He was born in London in 1969 and speaks with an English accent, but, he says, "only when I came to America did I think of myself as British."

"I was always in trouble from an early age. I had a fraught relationship with my parents, who were very traditional. Doing plays at school was a joyous release."

At 16, Andrews fell in love with his math teacher, moved in with her and had a son.

Although he got a scholarship to London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama — Ewan McGregor was a classmate — Andrews never expected to be successful. "There were no Indian actors from England of note earning money or having a career," he says.

A key role as the Sikh mine-hunter Kip in the 1996 Oscar-winning "The English Patient" kick-started his career. But his life really changed in 1998 when he fell in love with actress Barbara Hershey while filming "Drowning on Dry Land." He moved to Los Angeles to be with Hershey, 21 years his senior, and they are still together.

Because "Lost" has been filming in Hawaii for the past five months, Andrews hasn't digested his newfound fame. But he is aware that Sayid's backstory — that he helped his childhood sweetheart escape from an Iraqi prison — has turned him into a sympathetic character.

"I've been very heartened by ordinary people's responses to Sayid," he says. "In Hollywood, Middle Eastern characters are usually insubstantial. What drew me to Sayid is his technical knowledge and his ability to build things. Plus, he's a soldier. He's romantic and heroic. Audiences really like and care about him. I think people in this country are trying to connect with the so-called enemy in a way this government won't allow them to."

Over time, it's possible that the actors' special talents might become part of their characters.

[Series creator] J.J. Abrams was asking me about my guitar playing," he says. "But it would be totally unbelievable if Sayid suddenly played the blues."

But, says series star Matthew Fox, "he's an amazing musician with incredible vocal subtlety."

"It's funny being around people when they meet him for the first time. They're absolutely stunned he has a British accent."

Andrews says he knows there are no guarantees he'll make it to the end of the season.

"Any of us could die," he says. "They've got this monster wandering around, which, by the way, I haven't seen. It's genius on the part of the producers to keep us all in line."

Campbell's close encounter with cocaine

Naomi Campbell says she nearly self-destructed from her use of cocaine.

Campbell told Diane Sawyer on ABC's "Primetime Live," which aired Thursday in the States, that she's glad she recovered, but acknowledges that it's still difficult.

"It was a rebellion in a certain way. You know," the British supermodel says. "I don't want to be in that pain again. I don't want to be in that place."

Campbell, 34, says she first tried cocaine when she was 24 but stopped before "something would have happened. Some self-destructive thing."

"I never did drugs before I would go on the runway because I knew that's when I was an active addict. I knew that they could see my eyes," she says.

Campbell says she assumes others knew of her addiction at the time. "People aren't stupid. ... You think people don't know, but they know. They know. I mean, that's your mind playing tricks on you."

In 2004, Campbell won her appeal in a privacy case against a London newspaper that published photographs

of her leaving a drug counseling meeting in 2001.

Stern awarded by Wired Magazine

Howard Stern, the acerbic self-described "King of All Media," has received Wired Magazine's Wired Renegade award for his tense battle with the FCC and upcoming switch to Sirius Satellite Radio.

Other recipients of the sixth annual Rave Awards, presented Tuesday, include Brad Bird, who won in the Film Director category for "The Incredibles," the computer-animated story of a family of superheroes.

"I'm very excited to be included in this group of people," said Bird, who dismissed the notion that the popularity of computer-generated blockbuster films might nudge real-life actors

out of the business.

He called such concerns those of "backward-thinking actors."

"I think some actors are taking it that way, but I don't think it's a legitimate concern," Bird said.

Kevin Sites, a freelance journalist, took home the first Blogger award, for helping pioneer a new breed of report-

ing from the war in Iraq. Sites also chronicled the tsunami rescue effort in southeast Asia.

Benet sings 'sorry' to ex-wife Berry

Eric Benet is singing an apology to ex-wife Halle Berry. Benet said lyrics in his upcoming album include an apology — but she's heard it all before.

"I think somewhere along the way, she's heard everything," he told "Access Hollywood" in an interview.

"Maybe she hasn't heard the songs, but she's heard everything I have to say."

Berry filed for divorce from the R&B singer last April after about three years of marriage. Tabloids speculated about Benet's faithfulness.

"Some of it is truth," but the reports also were full of misconceptions, Benet, 34, told the syndicated entertainment TV show.

"I think the biggest misconception is that there is something wrong with me," he said. "It's like the whole picture that was painted was 'sex addict.'"

Benet also denied being a sex addict last year.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Campbell



Stern



Benet

YOUR MONEY

Bank fees add up, but some can be avoided

BY EVA M. AUGSTUMS
The Dallas Morning News

No matter where you bank these days, there are overhead fees and you can't easily add up.

If you grab cash out of another bank's ATM, be prepared to pay a couple of dollars to your bank, plus another couple to the ATM's bank.

Overdraw your account or bounce a check, and your bank could slap you with an overdraft fee and an insufficient-funds fee. The person or company that you wrote the check to may also charge you a fee.

And if you believe you're getting free checking, think again. At the very least, you're going to have to pay for the checks.

"We have to have fees," said Gail Enda, senior vice president of marketing and member services at American Airlines Federal Credit Union. "It costs money to run a financial institution."

But that doesn't mean you have to be the one to pay the fees.

Simply put, poorer customers cost banks money. If a customer doesn't keep much money deposited in a bank but demands a lot of services, a bank loses money.

In 2001, the average consumer who couldn't afford to meet minimum balance requirements on a regular checking account paid \$228 in fees, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Industry experts say that amount is higher today, as banks continue to raise existing fees, invent new ones and make it harder to avoid them.

Smart customers find ways to save money

As with many businesses, the more you buy, the more discounts you get. If you have fewer accounts at your bank, you can expect to have less flexibility with fees.

It's very difficult to find an account that is completely fee-free.

Banks and credit unions offer no-fee, no-interest checking accounts, but there always seems to be some sort of catch.

"Everyone advertises free checking, but there's not a fee unless you do something wrong," said John Sutton, vice president of branch operations for Credit Union of Texas. "Plus, if you want checks for your checking account, you are going to have to pay for them."

Also, having just one account doesn't necessarily give you privileges of other bank services. An additional fee may be charged for products such as overdraft protection and online bill paying.

Why the charge: The account may be free to the customer, but the bank still has to pay transaction costs.

The cost: Free, if you keep your account in good standing. If you want to write checks, you are going to have to pay for them.

How to avoid them: There are many companies out there that provide and print checks for less than what you pay if you ordered

them through your bank. Or you could try to only use debit cards and online bill paying.

If you need cash and use another bank's ATM, you are going to be assessed an out-of-network fee.

In 2002, 69 percent of the nation's banks charged fees for non-bank customer withdrawals, according to the Federal Reserve.

"We have to have fees. It costs money to run a financial institution."

Gail Enda

Senior vice president of marketing and member services at American Airlines Federal Credit Union

About 10 percent of banks and savings associations charged an annual fee, which averaged nearly \$12 for ATM services.

"If you're going out on a Friday night, you have to make sure you don't use the ATM at the bar, because it's going to cost you your thing like \$6," said Jim Theis of Myvesta, a consumer education group.

"Those that want convenience will pay for it," he says.

Why the charge: When you pay an access fee, you are paying for the delivery of your cash where you need it, when you need it — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The cost: Plan on paying \$1 to \$2 to the bank that owns the ATM, plus anywhere from \$1 to \$3 to your bank.

How to avoid them: Use your own bank's ATMs or those owned by financial institutions that charge fees to noncustomers. And if you frequently use another bank's ATM, consider making larger withdrawals so that you incur fewer ATM access fees.

If an account balance has slipped below the minimum your bank requires, you may incur a single monthly fee.

If you have money in multiple accounts or do some other business with them, such as an auto or home loan, ask whether the balance can be combined to meet

the minimum requirements.

"Each bank is going to offer many different programs," Tehan said. "If one doesn't work for you, just need to shop around."

Why the charge: The account may be free to the customer, but the bank still has to pay transaction costs.

The cost: Ranges from a couple of dollars on up, depending on the type of account and whether it accrues interest.

How to avoid them: Maintain the balance.

You thought you had enough money in your checking account when you withdrew money from the ATM, but you didn't.

As a courtesy, the bank probably will cover the expense. However, it'll cost you.

Why the charge: The bank is paying for and fixing your mistake.

The cost: In 2002, the average overdraft and insufficient-funds fee at Texas banks were both a little more than \$22 each. An additional fee may be charged for every day your account is overdrawn.

How to avoid them: If you occasionally bounce checks, resolve to keep a cushion in your account. Start by leaving \$200 in your account and pretending it's not there. Don't think you can afford the \$200? If you're the average bank customer, you probably paid more than that in fees last year.

Another option is to sign up for overdraft protection (sometimes it's free). And don't count on a lag time between the time you write a check and it hits your bank. With technological and regulatory changes, that time is disappearing.

More banks are using the Internet to offer products and services or otherwise encourage communications with consumers. Unlike a bank branch, online banking sites never close. They're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they're only a mouse click away.

"Online bill pay can be very convenient with certain accounts," said Consumer Action spokeswoman Linda Sherry. "If you're comfortable with the technology, it can be very cost-effective."

Why the charge: Most banks pass on a provider and convenience fee to their customers.

The cost: Not a lot. Consumer monthly costs range from \$5 to \$6.

How to avoid them: Find a bank that doesn't charge.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
High	Low	Name	Last	% Chg
10,833.9	10,766.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,740.75	+1.55
3,823.28	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,680.25	+66.51
558.2	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	348.06	+1.67
7,671.3	6,211.3	NYSE Composite	7,251.28	+40.07
1,526.26	1,158.74	Amex Index	1,595.34	+7.45
1,751.2	1,252.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,651.70	+31.59
1,211.70	1,062.72	S&P 500	1,200.20	+9.40
544.29	540.24	S&P MidCap	545.39	+0.39
656.11	515.99	Russell 2000	627.56	+7.02
12,036.18	12,068.52	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,818.04	+20.23

NYSE					AMEX					NASDAQ				
Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)					Most Active (\$1 or more)				
Name	Vol	Open	Low	Chg	Name	Vol	Open	Low	Chg	Name	Vol	Open	Low	Chg
Lucraft	317,743	1.19			SPR	66,613	132.24		+79	Nasdaq100	76,645	37.41		+27
Norfolk	291,932	24.40		+0.01	SF	21,350	26.66		+4.75	Intel	19,970	27.00		+0.40
Centimark	275,520	2.48		-0.01	CSX	6,500	43.04		+0.01	Southwest	14,805	1.19		+0.01
TimeWar	227,619	61.15		+0.01	BA	7,813	34.41		+0.01	CS	5,272	12.18		-0.10
TimeWar	225,415	17.32		+0.01	DIA	5,000	10.00		+0.01	GOOG	2,155	2.13		+0.01
TimeWar	225,415	17.32		+0.01	ENR	5,643	41.11		+0.01	JOS	1,518	6.33		-0.01
GenElec	188,818	35.50		+0.01	MSFT	463,100	34.08		+0.01	DRDGLD	3,262,787	1.11		+0.01
GenElec	188,818	35.50		+0.01	MSFT	463,100	34.08		+0.01	GOVINT	1,000	1.00		+0.01
Walmart	159,961	35.50		-0.01	MSftZq	3,489	1.49		+0.01	ApplMkt	41,311	2.70		+0.33

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Vol	DE	Last	% Chg
Adiant Technologies	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Boeing	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Computer Sciences	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
General Dynamics	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Lockheed Martin	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Northrop Grumman	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Raytheon	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Boeing	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Boeing	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38
Boeing	1.00	17	41.12	+1.38

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	NAV	Last	% Chg
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
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Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
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Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
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Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
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Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
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Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
Fidelity Invest - Growth	32.28	-0.32	-1.2	-0.4
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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		\$1 Buys
Dollar buys		\$0.7388
British pound (sterling)		1.6196
Japanese yen (Feb. 26)		102.60
South Korean won (Feb. 26)		978.00
Commercial rates		\$1 Buys
Bahrain (Dinar)		0.37591
Bahamas (Bahamian dollar)		0.7191
Canada (Canadian dollar)		0.7191
Denmark (Krone)		0.1360
France (Franc)		0.1360
Hong Kong (Dollar)		0.7191
Hungary (Forint)		103.60
Iceland (Krona)		0.9545
Ireland (Pound)		0.7191
Israel (Shekel)		10.040
Japan (Yen)		0.00709
Kuwait (Dinar)		0.2500
Norway (Krone)		0.2500
Philippines (Dollar)		0.0200
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)		0.358
Singapore (Dollar)		1.3314
South Korea (Won)		1,006.50
Taiwan (Dollar)		0.0200
Thailand (Baht)		34.49
U.S. (New Line)		0.7191

(Military exchange rates are those given to customers by the U.S. military in the country of residence of the service member. Rates for the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are based on the London market. The U.S. military's exchange rates in Germany are based on the local bank's exchange facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is represented in dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close		\$434.10
Gold		\$434.10
Silver		\$7.20
Platinum		\$1,000.00
Palladium		\$1,000.00
Rhodium		\$1,000.00
Iridium		\$1,000.00
Osmium		\$1,000.00
Ruthenium		\$1,000.00
Tungsten		\$1,000.00
Vanadium		\$1,000.00
Yttrium		\$1,000.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	5.50
Federal funds market rate	5.50
3-month bill	2.69
30-year T-bond	6.50
Sources:	The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility

Best time to use gift cards

MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Americans spent an estimated \$20 billion on gift cards during the 2004 holiday season, reports the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Most people begin redeeming their gift cards soon after the holidays, but many wait until that ideal purchase comes along. If you still got holiday gift cards, now's the time to use them — before the assorted dead-end fees kick in.

Did you know that a \$50 gift card might not go as far as you expect, even though you haven't spent a dime? Here are some of the little-known, yet common gift-card pitfalls:

■ **Balance/maintenance fees:** A small percentage of your remaining balance will be deducted every month after the card

isn't used within a set period of time. Expiration dates. Some are as short as a year.

■ **Dormancy fees:** These kick in if the card isn't used within a set period of time — usually between six months and a year. The fee can be as high as \$2 per month.

■ **Limits on cash back:** If you redeem your gift certificate for merchandise valued at less than the gift certificate's value, you may get cash back for the remainder. Other gift cards don't offer cash back, even if the remainder is a few pennies.

If you're not sure what restrictions are on your gift card, there are two ways to check. Many gift cards include rules and restrictions in fine print either on the card or its packaging. Or you might call or visit the store and ask a company representative for the details.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The mood of this Venus transit into Pisces is best summed up in the words of the David Gray song "Babylon": "Let go your heart/Let go your head/And feel it now." Love is more than an emotion, action or word. It's a state of being that is best left unanalyzed, as something is always lost in the translation. Instead of "doing" love, try "being" love.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 26). The sky is your limit this year. With so many options, your main challenge is to focus your energy in one direction. If you can do that, you're unstoppable. A new work environment is featured in March. Romantic likes and dislikes change, allowing you to find love where you weren't finding it before. Love with a Scorpio or Libra is a thrill.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Declarations of love and other promises are featured. You're skeptical of this but can be swayed if offered a little proof. As the comedian Steven Wright said, "All those who believe in psychokinetics raise my hand."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Feeling a little dull? Leave a window of opportunity open for the love affair between you and yourself to rekindle. A Gemini or Aries helps find something fabulous and new about you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got attitude in overdrive. Friends would be jealous if they weren't so grateful to be part of your story. Continue to make it up as you go—it's working for you now.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Energy, vitality and sensuous can be yours now if you're willing to give up your role as the authority. Snap judgments you make about others will hurt you more than any judgments they could make of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a corner of your world always on the verge of blowing up into a big

drama. Park your lawn chair, metaphorically of course, and watch the volcano action. When you think it's over, it's just beginning.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're a fearless dreamer, a provocateur and a rocker of boots. You're not saying things for shock value or doing things to upset the status quo, but you have that effect anyhow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An excited buzz centers on you. You're an important part of breaking news. The reaction you get makes you feel like a celebrity—at least a temporary one. Of course, there really is no other kind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Look for breathtaking beauty. It's out there waiting to be found. When you're on the quest, you're so appealing that you'll attract positive attention. It's wonderful to get credit for just being you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A paradox: If there's one thing you're serious about, it's lightening things up. You're good at games—playing them and inventing them. Do be careful when there are hearts hanging in the balance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). New projects get off to a sensational start, but you know better than anyone that finishing is what counts. Be the one who makes sure that everyone else is doing the job they say they'll do. This requires list making.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're the happy cruise director, pointing your people to the social hot spots, laying out the next fun activity, and making sure a good time is had by all. You're quite successful in this end.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not like anyone—and that's clear in the way things go down today. There's no need to feel insecure, and there's really no reason to conform. Sometimes, mounting tension is a positive thing.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



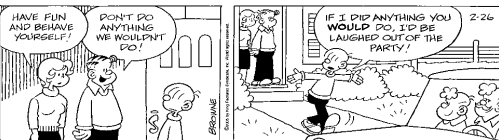
Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



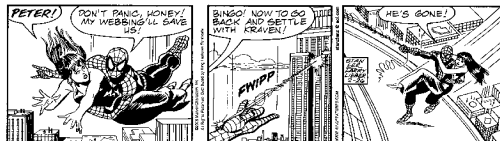
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



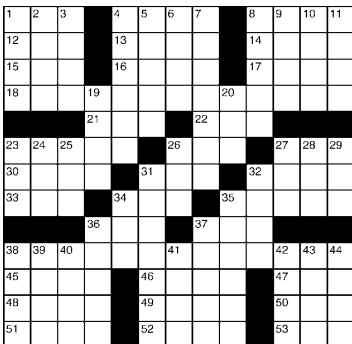
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



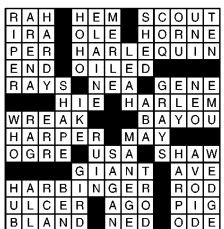
Across

- 1 Hot tub
- 4 Got a hole-in-one
- 8 Cantina order
- 12 Anderson's "High —"
- 13 From one end to 'tother
- 14 Sportswear brand
- 15 Guitar's cousin
- 16 Bar
- 17 Miss Gulch's prey
- 18 Sitcom boy
- 21 Doctrine
- 22 — Arbor, Michigan
- 23 Gall
- 26 Work unit
- 27 Turtledove tally
- 30 Emanation
- 31 Craze
- 32 Suitor
- 33 Corral
- 34 Museum stuff
- 35 Friars' tribute
- 36 Ram's ma'am
- 37 Opposed
- 38 sitcom boy
- 45 Slaughter of baseball
- 46 "Titanic" cast member
- 47 —"Tuck"
- 48 Telegram
- 49 Carolina college
- 50 Blunder
- 51 Charon's course

Down

- 1 Theatergoer's souvenir
- 2 Jab
- 3 Neighborhood
- 4 Motionless
- 5 Bracelet attachment
- 6 Clapton or Idle
- 7 Unimaginative one
- 8 Tennessee footballer
- 9 Black Sea gulf
- 10 Pigeon coop
- 11 Bloodhound's clue
- 19 Passport endorsement
- 20 Chang's closest kin
- 23 Upper limit
- 24 Be contrite
- 25 Coffee-shop vessel
- 26 Pack away
- 27 Darjeeling, e.g.
- 28 Existed
- 29 Away
- 31 Supermarket fixture
- 32 Dalton portrayal
- 34 Puncturing tool
- 35 Capybara or vole
- 36 English county
- 37 Doctrine
- 38 Basquia benches
- 39 Condominium, e.g.
- 40 Gruesome
- 41 Bulldog's alma mater
- 42 From the beginning
- 43 Actress Sorvino
- 44 Agile

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-26

CRYPTOQUIP

KV DSJ'HF MSBN MS ES
V KTN ZTN KTMFHQKFR
Z YFQFT-VSSM EJD, K'N YZD

KM'Y Z MZBB SHNFH!
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO SOME WAGGISH PEOPLE, PRESS CENSORSHIP MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS WRITER'S CLAMP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals R

Find a good man where good men go

Dear Abby: I am a 27-year-old woman who would like to meet and date a man who respects women.

Two years ago, my husband and I were divorced. Since then my dating experiences have been disappointing.

My friends and acquaintances all say that meeting men in a bar is not a good way to find someone with whom I could be happy. I agree, because most of the men I have met in bars never call after the first date. They are unemployed, recently separated, or drop me after a few dates when I won't have sex.

I have contacted local parishes to find out about weekend retreats and charity functions, but dating men I met there didn't bring any better results.

I don't understand why dating is such a problem. I'm blonde, attractive and friendly. I work

and attend college full time. I am ambitious, a voracious reader, and can carry on an intelligent conversation.

Most men I've encountered seem happy to live at home with their parents and don't want to start a family of their own.

I'm looking for someone who would take me to dinner and a movie and treat me like a lady. I don't mind staying home and watching movies sometimes, but men today apparently want only casual sex — not relationships.

Unlike my girlfriends who are satisfied with bar-hopping every weekend for male companionship, I want to share my life with someone and have a family. I'm not asking for an instant marriage proposal, but I would like a meaningful relationship. Have you any suggestions?

Dear Abby



Online proposal not a fairy tale

Dear Annie: I've been dating "Tommy" for a little over a year, and he's just popped "The Question." I've known for months that he was going to propose, because he began talking about kids and our own place and our future. I am in love with this man, and I want to say yes, but here's the problem: We communicate a lot via MSN Messenger, and that's how he asked me. The technological age takes all the romance out of love.

I imagined a dozen other proposal scenarios, none of which involved the Internet. Each one included Tommy down on one knee with a ring.

Now I'm not sure how to respond. I told two of my friends about the proposal. One wanted to tell him off; the other said I'm making too much of it and should respond the way my heart feels.

I don't need some elaborate scheme. I just want a sweet, down-on-one-knee-with-a-ring proposal.

Annie's Mailbox



—Bride in Need

Dear Bride: Tommy loves you, and you love him. It's time to communicate better. Otherwise you will be disappointed constantly, since he will have no idea what you want.

We think Tommy proposed in this fashion because he wasn't sure he could work up the courage to do it in person. Reply, saying you will give him your answer when you can gaze romantically into his eyes. If you really need him to appear with a ring, you can add, "I can't wait to see the ring," although we're pretty certain he doesn't have one yet. We say, if you want to marry the guy, you should accept the proposal, regardless of how it's made. The rest is just window-dressing.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Afraid in Florida," the mom who worried about her 15-year-old son, "Mark," who

dresses like a freak. I'm a young woman who constantly receives call-calls of "Hey, it's not Halloween!" and "Where's the funeral?" I commend Mark for having the courage to dress how he chooses. Even more, I applaud his mother for accepting his choices.

However, she shouldn't worry so much about her son being beaten up or not getting a job. From personal experience, I can tell her he probably receives little more than ridiculous comments from people too shallow to focus on the great person he is, and who see only his outward appearance. Since he's lucky enough to have good family support, those little barbs will do nothing but make him stronger.

The Voice of Experience
in Michigan
Dear Voice: Thanks for your wit of encouragement.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEGIN

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ROGAC

LAI DAH

GLERCY

www.jumble.com

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: TARDY ANKLE SEETHE DEUCE

Answer: How the steamy soap opera star left the fans — IN A "LATHEE"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

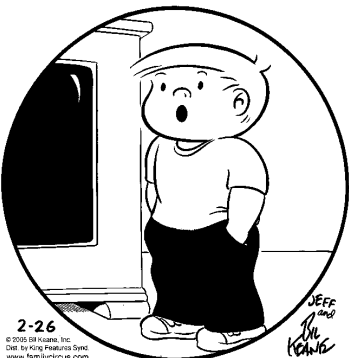
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Family Circus



"I don't feel like watchin' television. Am I sick?"

GRAFFITI

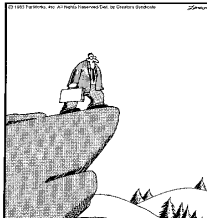


Dennis the Menace



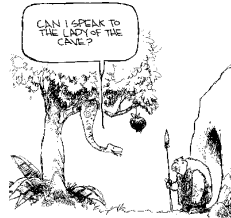
© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Seymour Chwast: Accountant of this World's Finest

Non Sequitur



THE THEORY VOTED MOST LIKELY TO TICK OFF EVERYONE...

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Red Sox ace Schilling throws off mound

The Associated Press

Curt Schilling wasn't too happy after throwing off a mound for the first time since winning Game 2 of the World Series.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are hoping closer Eric Gagne will be able to pitch again soon after he sprained a ligament in his left knee during the team's first full-squad workout of spring training.

Schilling, who had ankle surgery 16 days after he beat St. Louis in the World Series, threw

Spring training

47 pitches during a 16-minute workout at Fort Myers, Fla.

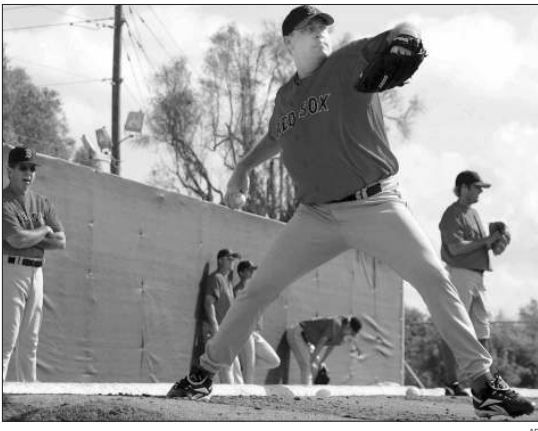
"This was a good day when I didn't feel as good as I wanted to feel," Schilling said. "My ankle didn't hurt, so I guess that's a positive for people other than me."

Pitching Opening Day against the New York Yankees on April 3 — probably against former Arizona teammate Randy Johnson — remains a possibility, and Schilling's competitive nature is driving him toward that. But he wants to make sure he's healthy at a much more important time.

"I think he looked terrific," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "He wants to be dotting every corner right now and throwing splits, and that's just not going to happen."

Schilling's 21-6 record and 3.26 ERA in his first season with Boston boosted the Red Sox into the playoffs, where his bloody sock became the symbol of his determination to do whatever he could to win the World Series for the first time in 86 years.

He had one of the worst outings of his career in the first game of the AL championship series, allowing three runs in three innings of



Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling throws off the mound for the first time since Game 2 of the World Series during workouts on Schilling in Fort Myers, Fla. Schilling is hoping to pitch on Opening Day.

a 10-7 loss to the Yankees. Before his next start, a tendon that had been slipping out of place was stitched to his skin.

With blood seeping through the sutures, Schilling allowed one run in seven innings during Boston's 4-2 win. The procedure was repeated before his next and last start, when he allowed no earned runs in six innings of a 6-2 victory.

In Vero Beach, Fla., Gagne didn't seem particularly concerned about his injury, but train-

er Stan Johnston said the 29-year-old right-hander probably will have his activity limited for about a week. Johnston said the injury needs about six weeks to fully heal.

"I turned around and a cleat got stuck," said Gagne, who will undergo an MRI exam. "I just twisted my knee a little bit. I'm not concerned. There's no swelling, and that's a really good sign. I don't want to start aggravating anything. It's early in camp."

Infielder Norihiro Nakamura,

signed to a minor league contract, was not in camp because of visa problems. Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said he had no idea when Nakamura, a 31-year-old veteran of 13 seasons with the Osaka Kintetsu Buffaloes in Japan's Pacific League, would report.

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro is leaving open the possibility of filing a lawsuit against Jose Canseco, who said he introduced the first baseman to steroids in 1992 when both players were with the Texas

Rangers.

Canseco cited Palmeiro as a steroid user in his new book. In an interview on the CBS television show "60 Minutes," Canseco said he injected the drug into Palmeiro.

Palmeiro issued a statement last month in which he denied ever using steroids, and he emphatically backed up that assertion Thursday after his first practice of spring training. Palmeiro also said he's considered hiring the law firm of Orioles owner Peter Angelos to take legal action against Canseco.

"The one thing I can say is I have the best law firm and the best lawyer standing in the wings in Peter Angelos," he said. "I have options available for me. He stands behind me and he's ready. I will look at all my options and I'll decide."

In Mesa, Ariz., Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker and some of his players were disputing some comments Sammy Sosa made when he reported to the Baltimore Orioles' camp.

At a news conference Wednesday, Sosa was asked about comments by Cubs players who said he and the team were better off following the Feb. 2 trade. Sosa apparently interpreted that as the Cubs saying they didn't need him anymore.

"They lie," Sosa was quoted as saying in several newspapers.

The Cubs insisted Thursday that he's not what they said or meant.

"Did I say that?" asked Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood. "I never did say it, so apparently somebody else lies. Not him. I'm not talking about him. I never said we were better without Sammy. I said I think both teams got better in the offseason not because we got rid of Sammy but because of some other moves we made."

Congressman wants Canseco, McGwire to testify

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A senior House Democrat urged Thursday that Jose Canseco and others the former baseball slugger accused of abusing steroids, including Mark McGwire, be called before Congress to testify on use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Rep. Henry Waxman of California, the top Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, said representatives from Major League Baseball and the players' association also should appear before the panel to explain how they plan to stop the use of dangerous drugs by baseball players.

Waxman made his request for hearings to the chairman of the committee, Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va. There was no immediate response from Davis' office.

In Canseco's book, "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big," he admits using steroids and alleges that McGwire often injected the drugs with him. He said he introduced steroids to former Texas Rangers teammates Rafael Palmeiro, Juan Gonzalez and Ivan Rodriguez. They have publicly denied Canseco's charges.

"Mr. Canseco insists his information is accurate," but Major League Baseball says

MLB briefs

it will not investigate the allegations, Waxman said. Hearings with Canseco, McGwire and others "would be an opportunity to find out what really happened and to get to the bottom of this growing scandal."

Major League Baseball and the players union in January agreed to a tougher steroid-testing program that will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round. Players and owners hope to finalize their new agreement by Tuesday, the mandatory reporting date for spring training.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who had threatened baseball with legislation, praised the agreement as a "significant breakthrough" but said he would have preferred tougher penalties and the inclusion of amphetamines on the list of banned items.

The commissioner's office and the union had no immediate comment.

Players agree to international drug-testing rules for World Cup

Baseball players signed an agreement calling for international drug-testing rules

during a World Cup tournament next year.

The deal, signed by the union, the commissioner's office and the International Baseball Federation on Feb. 16, states that IBAF rules will cover the frequency of testing before and during the tournament, the list of prohibited substances, the procedures for taking samples and the laboratories used.

"This agreement reflects with integrity the IBAF rules approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency," the IBAF said in a statement.

Each team will select a provisional roster of 60 players 45 days before the start of the tournament, and players will be covered by the drug-testing rules until the end of the competition.

More substances are banned by the IBAF than in major league baseball. Gene Orza, the union's chief executive officer, wouldn't discuss details of the deal.

"Obviously, we will brief in detail the players who elect to play in the games on the specifics of the agreement," Orza said in an e-mail Tuesday.

The sides agreed to the deal last April 26 and had been putting it in writing.

Lawyers for players and owners currently are revising their own drug-testing agreement, which will include more fre-

quent tests for steroids and, for the first time, suspensions for first-time offenders and offseason testing. They hope that deal will be in place by the mandatory reporting date for spring training, March 1.

Owners of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays hope to launch a 16-team World Cup tournament during spring training next year.

Devil Rays' Cordova retires

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Former Major League Rookie of the Year Marty Cordova retired Thursday, a day after he was scheduled to report to spring training with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

In 10 seasons with Minnesota, Toronto, Cleveland and Baltimore, the oft-injured outfielder batted .274 with 122 home runs and 540 RBIs. He missed all of 2004 and appeared in just nine games two years ago after two operations on his right elbow.

"He's been bothered by back injuries over the last several seasons, and it has gotten to the point where he felt the best decision was to retire," Devil Rays general manager Chuck LaMar said.

The 34-year-old was Rookie of the Year in 1995, hitting .277 with 24 homers and 84 RBIs with Minnesota. He signed a minor league contract with the Devil Rays on Jan. 12.

Gonzaga wins fifth straight WCC title

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Adam Morrison is optimistic about March.

Morrison had 22 points for Gonzaga as the No. 12 Bulldogs clinched the West Coast Conference title for the fifth straight season with an 84-68 victory over Portland on Thursday night.

Gonzaga has one more game — a nonconference contest at home Monday against Northern Colorado — and then it's on to the WCC tournament. And perhaps beyond.

"I think the sky is the limit for us," Morrison said. "If we just rebound and play defense. We've got the offensive thing taken care of."

Ronny Turiaf had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Gonzaga (22-4, 13-2), which has won nine straight. It is the ninth time since 1994 that the Bulldogs have won the regular season conference championship.

Darren Cooper had 20 points for the Pilots (15-14, 4-10), who have dropped four straight and eight of their last 10 games. It was Portland's regular season finale.

Cooper played the entire game with a dislocated right shoulder.

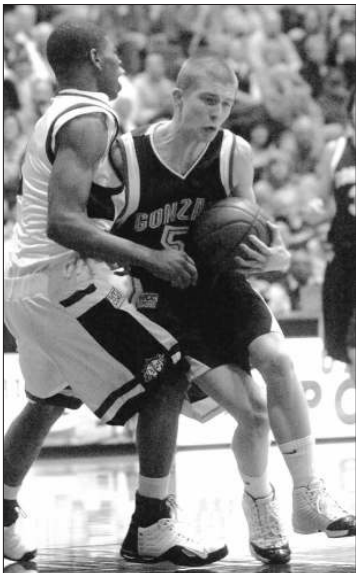
"We really wanted to win this game and have some momentum going into the tournament," Cooper said. "We just let this one slip away from us."

The WCC tournament starts March 4 in Santa Clara, Calif., with the Bulldogs having a first-round bye as the top seed.

Although the Bulldogs felt slightly behind in the opening minutes, they easily controlled the game, shooting 50 percent from the floor and leading by as much as 19 points in the second half.

The Pilots shot 42.9 percent.

Turiaf moved ahead of Jeff Brown on the school's career scoring list with 1,655 points. He now has 806 rebounds for his career.



University of Portland's Darren Cooper (1) tries to block Gonzaga's Derek Raivio (5) during the first half in Portland, Ore., on Thursday.

making him just the fourth Gonzaga player to reach 800 career rebounds.

It was Turiaf's 24th career double-double and his 10th this season.

Turiaf's lay-in made it 70-51 before Morrison hit a pair of free throws with about 5 minutes left for Gonzaga's widest margin.

Gonzaga sophomore guard Derek Raivio, whose father, Rick, played for Portland and is in the school's Hall of Fame, scored 12 points.

"It wasn't a big game just for me. It was a big game for the rest of the team," Raivio said. "We had the league pretty much clinched and we didn't want to share it with anyone."

Down 19-18 after Portland's Andre Gahlmann hit a jumper, Erroll Knight's three-pointer

sparked a 16-0 run that put the Bulldogs up 34-19.

The run that Gonzaga had in the first half was a big part of the separation, and we just never recovered from that," Cooper said.

Morrison already had 14 of his points at the half, and Gonzaga was ahead 38-25 before a sellout crowd at Chiles Center that included a large turnout of Bulldog fans.

"We missed some easy ones right at the rim, which was the difference for them in the first half," Portland coach Michael Holton said.

Portland's Pooh Jeter, who has scored in double figures in 22 of 29 games this season, had 13 points.

Portland was without reserve center Dreshawn Vance, who was hurt last Thursday in the Pilots' 58-56 loss to San Francisco.

Earlier this season, the Bulldogs beat the Pilots 91-79 at home in Spokane, Wash.

It didn't take long for the Spartans to earn a comfortable lead again. Offensive rebounds led to seven of their first eight points in the second half, giving them a 41-27 lead with 17:55 left.

"Those offensive rebounds reminded me a little bit of our teams in the past," Izzo said. "Those are backbreakers."

The Badgers didn't pull within single digits again until there was just over a minute left.

Olson joins Wooden with 304th in Pac-10

The Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Arizona's Luke Olson joined John Wooden at the top of the Pacific-10 Conference's career victories list with a big win, and then modestly downplayed the milestone.

"If the time did come that I tied him or go ahead, there still should be an asterisk that says he's the greatest college coach that ever lived," Olson said of the former UCLA coach.

"It's a real honor for me to be in here long enough to have the opportunity to tie him."

Ivan Radenovic made two free throws with 9 seconds left to lift No. 9 Arizona to a 57-56 overtime win over Washington State on Thursday night, giving Olson his 304th victory in Pac-10 play.

"There were a lot of outstanding young people I had to work with," Olson said.

"That's how the wins come." Olson will have a chance to go ahead when Arizona plays at No. 14 Washington on Saturday in a showdown of the league's top two teams — which should go a long way in deciding if Olson wins his 11th league title.

The Wildcats, who lost to Washington State at home in late January, almost suffered their first sweep at the hands of the Cougars since 1982-83.

Washington State held Arizona 23 points below its season average, to 44 percent shooting and just 1-for-9 from three-point range.

"Earlier in the year, we would have lost this game," said Channing Frye, who led all scorers with 26 points, and added eight rebounds and four blocked shots.

The Wildcats' loss to Washington State, which ended a 38-game winning streak against the Cougars, was a wakeup call, said Frye, who made 11 of 13 shots.

"It brought us together as a team and showed us what we've got to work on," Frye said.

Radenovic, who added 10 points and eight rebounds, said he wasn't nervous when he went to the line with his team trailing 56-57.

"Every basketball player is looking for that moment when he lets his free throws to win a game," Radenovic said.

Derrick Low's three-point shot for Washington State missed out in the closing seconds, and Radenovic rebounded for the Wildcats (24-4, 14-2), who won their 17th straight at Pullman.

It was the seventh straight win for the Wildcats since losing to Washington State in late January. Olson is 41-3 against Washington State.

Washington State (10-14, 5-10), fighting out of eight spots below the Pac-10 tournament, employed a slow-down offense and the league's best defense held Arizona well below its season average of 80 points per game. The Cougars rank seventh in the nation defensively, giving up 57 points per game.

"That's a game that was winna-

Men's Top 25 Roundup

ble, that's the hard part," Washington State coach Dick Bennett said.

"Channing Frye was the difference, as he has been so many times in the past against us."

Thomas Kelati led the Cougars with 16 points, and also held Salim Stoudamire, Arizona's leading scorer, to eight points — 10 below his average.

The game was tied at 49 at the end of regulation after Frye scored inside with 51 seconds left.

Stoudamire's two free throws gave Arizona a 51-49 lead. A three-pointer by Kelati gave Washington State a 52-51 lead, but Hassan Adams' layup put Arizona ahead 53-52.

Two free throws by Low and two by Kelati made it 56-53 for Washington State with 2:03 left. Mustafa Shakur made a layup for Arizona to close to 56-55.

Robbie Covill missed and Arizona got the ball back with 23 seconds left. Radenovic drove to the basket and was fouled by Chris Schlatter, making the tying and winning free throws.

No. 14 Washington 90, Arizona State 82: At Seattle, Tre Simmons tied a career-high 29 points for Washington, eight in the final 5:20, punctuated by a dunk with 3 seconds left.

Washington (22-4, 12-3 Pac-10) kept pace with Arizona in the Pac-10. The Huskies are 1½ games behind the Wildcats and host Arizona on Saturday.

Arizona State's Ike Diogu, leading the Pac-10 in scoring and rebounding, had a game-high 31 points and 15 rebounds. Dye was 17-for-18 from the foul line.

No. 24 Cincinnati 80, Marquette 68: At Cincinnati, Eric Hicks scored 17 points and the Bearcats used their strength inside to beat the Golden Eagles, who were playing their first game without leading scorer Travis Diener.

Jason Maxiell scored 14 points as Cincinnati (21-6, 9-4 Conference USA) let its formidable power forwards lead the way once again. Nick Williams added 16 points.

Marquette (18-9, 6-8) had trouble finding shots without Diener running the offense. He was No. 2 in the nation in forcing opponents to miss, holding them to 36.8 percent — exactly what Marquette shot.

Diener, one of the nation's top point guards, led the conference in scoring (19.7 points per game) and assists (7.0 per game) when he broke his hand Thursday during practice. He had surgery and will miss the rest of his senior season.

Steve Novak led Marquette with 25 points.

Spartans: Anderson lifts Michigan St.

SPARTANS, FROM BACK PAGE

"I don't think I missed a shot in warmups," Anderson said. "I said, 'Man, this feels good.'"

Paul Davis had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Spartans, while Shannon Brown controlled the game, shooting 50 percent from the floor and leading by as much as 19 points in the second half.

Anderson gave the Spartans a big cushion by himself a couple minutes into the game.

He scored all Michigan State's points during an 11-2 run, which gave the Spartans a 15-4 lead with 13:53 left in the first half.

"He got hot early and hit all the big shots," Tucker said.

Michigan State led by as much as 14 before halftime and didn't let the Badgers get closer than eight after Anderson's scoring barrage. Anderson scored 15 points in the first half to help Michigan State take a 33-25 lead.

Top seeds advance at soggy La Costa

The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — The Match Play Championship finally got under way at a golf course still under water.

Two-time defending champion Tiger Woods won his 13th consecutive match, but not without wiping mud from his eyes after hitting out of the mucky fairways Thursday at the wetlands known as La Costa Resort. Nine of the top 10 seeds advanced to the second round.

Otherwise, it was a good walk soiled.

"Disgusting. Absolutely disgusting," Robert Alenby said after an easy victory over British Open champion Todd Hamilton. "If this was a normal tournament, we wouldn't be playing. You can't even walk down the fairways."

They didn't need marshals at La Costa, they needed lifeguards. The fairways were so saturated that Davis Love III spent 10 minutes looking for a dry patch of grass.

The greens were soft and spongy, and players had to contend with heel prints — some swore the prints were so deep they cast a shadow late in the day. Woods said he would have been better off putting on a waffle iron. "At least a waffle iron is the



AP

Top-seeded Vijay Singh won easily on the first day of the Match Play Championship.

same height," he said after coasting to a 4-and-3 victory over Nick Price. "You can hit good putts and look great, and hit good putts and look like an absolute idiot."

Tees were mowed up to avoid landing areas that resembled swamps, the biggest change coming on the 47th yard. The second-longest par 4 at La Costa was converted into the shortest par 3, playing 162 yards because there wasn't a dry spot in the fairway.

"The course was really unplayable," Stuart Appleby said after beating Joakim Haeggen in one of only two matches that required extra holes. "With stroke play, there was no chance of playing today. And match play was a mess."

But that's why they played. This ficke format is about beating another player, not the course, and everyone faced the same conditions brought on by heavy rain earlier in the week that delayed the start of the Match Play Championship by one day.

Some handled it better than others.

Vijay Singh, the No. 1 seed who has never advanced beyond the

second round, built a quick lead against Shingo Katayama and sailed to a 4-and-3 victory.

"You just have to go with the flow," Singh said, presumably talking about the conditions in more ways than one. "If you let that mentally disturb you, you're going to have a problem. It was a good result for me."

Phil Mickelson made two birdies to start the second nine and led by as many as four holes before dispatching short-hitting Loren Roberts, 3 and 1. Retief Goosen went the distance with Stephen Leaney, winning 1 up.

Mike Weir of Canada, the No. 5 seed, was the only player among the top 10 who is headed home. Weir fought to the end, making a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to keep alive his chances, but Kirk Triplett rolled in a tricky 4-foot putt to advance to the second round.

Not many felt worse than Jim Furyk. He made six birdies and ran into one of the hottest players at La Costa, Ian Poulter of England, who made seven birdies for a 3-and-1 victory.

After two days of limited practice and play because of the rain, players gave the sparse gallery plenty of golf to watch under sunny skies. Sixteen matches went the distance, tying the record set last year at La Costa.

Only two of them required more than 18 holes, and the last one was perhaps the most dramatic of the day.

Nick O'Hern of Australia, playing in this event for the first time since he reached the quarterfinals four years ago, won three straight holes to take a 1-up advantage over Charles Howell III.

Howell walked a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force extra holes, and O'Hern answered with a 20-footer on No. 1 to win in 19 holes.

For all that work, O'Hern gets to play Woods in the second round.

Woods had few problems against three-time major winner Nick Price, winning four of the first eight holes and still missing his share of short putts.

There were not many gimmies, not on these greens.

"I was only the fifth open out, and I had Darren Clarke in front of me, and he's got his size 12s," Alenby said. "His belt prints were probably 3 inches deep."

Mayfair, Tiziani lead in Tucson

TUCSON, Ariz. — Billy Mayfair, trying to bounce back from the worst of his 16 PGA Tour seasons, and Mario Tiziani, who went to qualifying school 12 times before earning his tour card in December, each shot 9-under-par 63 to share a one-stroke lead in the Chrysler Classic of Tucson.

Steve Stricker bogeyed the 18th hole and dropped into a five-way tie for the place with Mark Calcavecchia, Michael Allen, Lucas Glover and Darren Stiles.

The 144-man field set first-round records for scoring average (69.59) and eagles (22).

Rosales in front in LPGA's first-field event of '05

KAHUKU, Hawaii — Jennifer Rosales shot 6-under-par 66 for a two-hole lead after the first round of the LPGA Tour's season-opening SBS Open, and 15-year-old Michelle Wie is four shots back after a 69.

Angela Stanford, Lorena Ochoa, Heather Bowie and Sung Ah Yim trail by two strokes. Jui Inster opened with a 69.

Wie, who lives a bit more than an hour away from course, was in a large group at 70 that included Grace Park, Carin Koch, Pat Hurst, and Cristie Kerr.

Match Play Championship

Thursday's results
At La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, Calif.
57.5 million
Yardage: 7,257; Par 72
Seeds in Parentheses
FIRST ROUND

Davis Love III (9) def. Chris Riley (56), 1 up.
 Lee Westwood (24) def. Steve Finck (41), 4 and 3.

Graeme McDowell (56) def. Darren Clarke (12), 1 up.

Robert Alenby (44) def. Todd Hamilton (23), 1 up.

Stuart Appleby (10) def. Joakim Haeggen (9), 3 and 1.

Ian Poulter (4) def. Jim Furyk (27), 1 and 1.

David Howell (43) def. Shigeaki Miyazuma (54), 2 up.

Tom Lehman (60) def. K. J. Choi (55), 4 and 2.

Stewart Cink (8) def. Tiger Woods (7), 1 up.

Chris DiMarco (16) def. Tim Herman (66), 1 up.

Chris O'Neil (37) def. Fredrick Jacobson (40), 2 up.

Michael Angel Jimenez (13) def. Rod Pampling (32), 3 and 2.

Paul Hahn (31) def. Fredrick Jacobson (40), 2 up.

Mike Donald (18) def. Zach Johnson (50), 4 and 3.

Lee Westwood (24) def. Richard Green (51), 1 up.

Mark Hensley (46) def. Stephen Ames (19), 4 and 3.

Vijay Singh (1) def. Shingo Katayama (22), 4 and 3.

Phil Mickelson (3) def. Jonathan Kaye (34), 1 up.

Retief Goosen (16) def. Stephen Loney (61), 1 up.

Fred Couples (30) def. Peter Lonard (29), 1 up.

Nick O'Hern (2) def. Nick Price (63), 4 and 3.

Tim Woods (21) def. Charles Howell III (34), 1 up.

Phil Mickelson (3) vs. Loren Roberts (62), 3 and 1.

Angel Cabrera (30) vs. Paul Casey (35), 2 and 1.

Friday

Second-round matches

Stewart Cink (8) vs. Tom Lehman (40)

Davis Love III (9) vs. Lee Westwood (24)

Paul Hahn (31) vs. Rory Sabbatini (41)

Stuart Appleby (10) vs. Ian Poulter (4)

Vijay Singh (1) vs. Jay Haas (33)

Chris DiMarco (16) vs. John Day (46)

Tiger Woods (7) vs. Nick O'Neil (37)

Kerry Perry (27) vs. Luke Donald (18)

Kirk Triplett (4) vs. Craig Parry (59)

Graeme McDowell (56) vs. Robert Alenby (44)

Sergio Garcia (60) vs. Jerry Kelly (38)

Adam Scott (11) vs. David Howell (43)

Retief Goosen (16) vs. Fredrick Jacobson (40)

Michael Angel Jimenez (13) vs. Chad Campbell (60)

Phil Mickelson (3) vs. Angel Cabrera (30)

David Tom (14) vs. Mark Hensley (46)

Gymnastics sets up a new scoring system

BY NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

Gymnastics found a way to overhaul its scoring system and still keep its perfect 10.

Under a new system that would take effect next January, gymnasts would get separate marks for difficulty and execution, and the two would be added together for a final score. There'd be no limit to the difficulty score, but the execution mark would continue to be based on the 10.0 scale.

"Competitions will be emotionally charged with a double challenge for each gymnast: to reach the '10' in execution and break a new world record," the International Gymnastics Federation, known as the FIG, said Thursday.

The new scoring system still has to be approved by the FIG Council, spokesman Philippe Siacchi said. There will be a symposium on the changes next month in Budapest, Hungary, and the council is scheduled to meet in May in Helsinki, Finland.

The FIG has been in flux for several years to change its Code of Points, the extensive guide to the difficulty values assigned to every move. In the current scoring system, a two-judge "A" panel sets the difficulty value for a routine, and the "B" panel takes deductions from that. The highest and lowest scores from the six-judge "B" panel are tossed out, and the remaining are averaged for one, final score.

But many say the system doesn't accurately reflect technical advances in the sport, with gymnasts limited to a maximum score of 10.0 no matter how difficult their routine. Scoring errors in the men's events in the Athens Olympics and the debacle that followed the 2000 Summer Olympics in Paul Hamm's victory in the all-around gave the issue new urgency.

"The level today of gymnastics and the start value has risen," FIG president Bruno Grandi said. "The Athens Games were a must be open-ended, but it must be compensated with (execution deductions)."

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Next youth movement hits track

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — As Reed Sorenson reached for the microphone, Dale Earnhardt Jr. playfully slapped his hand and snatched it away.

Sorenson had to wait his turn. But he might not be so willing to take a back seat on the race track. The 19-year-old Sorenson is one of several young drivers making headway in NASCAR's lower ranks and taking advantage of the sport's ongoing youth movement.

"I hope I'm leading the way," the confident Sorenson said.

So far, so good.

Sorenson finished ninth and was the top rookie in the Busch Series season opener at Daytona International Speedway last Saturday, a race that featured several drivers expected to be part of NASCAR's next group of "Young Guns."

Drivers under 24 years old include Sorenson, Ryan Hemptill, Shane Hmiel, Blake Feese, Justin Labonte, Paul Menard, Brandon Miller, Boston Reid, Martin Truex Jr., and Jon Wood.

At that age, they make young Nextel Cup stars like Junior, Kurt Busch, Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Matt Kenseth and Ryan Newman seem over the hill.

"There's more available talent than ever before," said Lorin Ranier, who scouts talent for Chip Ganassi Racing. "We'd all like to hire Jeff Gordon and bring him to our team, but what's the chances of that happening? Not very good. So what do you do? You start looking elsewhere. You can't get the guy you want so you have to go out and find the next best thing."

For Ranier, that means spending countless hours researching drivers and poring over results, hoping to find a young driver for Tony Stewart. He would settle for Kasey Kahne or Kyle Busch, both of whom had successful Busch careers and are now driving full time in the Nextel Cup series.

"There's a lot of good drivers out there, but I am not looking for good drivers. I am looking for exceptional drivers," Ranier said. "It's like the NBA Draft. I'm only looking for lottery picks."

Ranier said that because of NASCAR's popularity reaching an all-time high, more children than ever are picking up the sport — and at a young age, too.

"Instead of playing baseball, a lot of kids are racing go-karts," he said.

That gives NASCAR teams a larger talent pool from which to choose drivers. It wasn't like that a decade ago, when NASCAR was much more of a family business.



Busch Series driver Reed Sorenson, 19, who was the top rookie in the season opener, is one of several young drivers making headway in NASCAR and taking advantage of the sport's youth movement.

Fathers and sons, as well as brothers, could be found in almost any field.

But these days, sponsors want more marketable talent. So much so that 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton is out of racing and veteran drivers Jimmy Spencer, Mike Skinner and Bobby Hamilton have been relegated to the truck series.

Other seats are due to open next year after Mark Martin and Rusty Wallace retire from full-time racing. Terry Labonte already is racing a limited schedule.

It's made the race to find fresh talent reach new depths. In fact, Martin's 13-year-old son, Matt, recently became the youngest driver to sign a contract with Ford. He is now racing a full-sized truck in the Fiskids Series at Orlando Speedway.

Finding talent has become big business, too. And it's growing increasingly competitive and cutthroat.

Ford Motor Co. has sued Kahne, accusing last year's top rookie of breaking a contract requiring him race in its cars.

Kahne now drives Dodges for team owner Ray Evernham.

Rick Hendrick found a loophole in Kyle Busch's contract when he was 16 years old and driving for Roush Racing in 2001, and lured him away with a more lucrative offer.

"Everybody is looking for somebody who is the complete package," Ranier said. "There are a lot of guys who are fast, but don't have the right mentality or they can't talk. You need the ones who are an exceptional driver, they are likeable and has all the extra stuff you can sell."

Sorenson, like several others on the Busch circuit, seems to have it all.

He showed it at Daytona, which was just his sixth NASCAR race. He bumped and banged with Earnhardt, Harvick and eventual winner Tony Stewart before fading in the final few wild laps.

"I followed him most of the day," Harvick said. "I don't know if you guys watched him drive last year at all, but he's going to win a lot of races."

Maybe soon, too. "He's got a lot of talent," Earnhardt said. "He doesn't do anything stupid. Even guys that are real good, they come in here early and they run over things, they over people, run into stuff. He doesn't do that."

New NASCAR rules debut in California

Shorter spoilers, softer tires part of Cup changes

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — New rules are going to make for some big changes for NASCAR Nextel Cup drivers this weekend at California Speedway.

Shorter rear spoilers, softer tires and a new qualifying schedule greeted the Nextel Cup drivers when they hit the 2-mile oval for two scheduled practice sessions Friday.

"There really is a lot to take in," said Chad Knaus, crew chief for Jimmie Johnson. "This weekend should answer a lot of questions for everyone after all the speculation we've been going through all winter."

The season opened last Sunday with the Daytona 500. But the results of that race were probably a bit misleading because the teams were forced to use horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates and had rear spoilers 6 1/2 inches high for stability on the 2 1/2-mile Daytona International Speedway.

In Sunday's Auto Club 500, the unrestricted engines will produce considerably more power, but the spoilers will be cut to 4 1/2 inches and there also will be a new generation tire to contend with.

Both changes, to be implemented everywhere except Daytona and Talladega, are intended to slow the cars in the turns by giving them less downforce, thereby making passing easier and improving competition.

Nearly everyone tested the new aerodynamics package here and at Las Vegas Motor Speedway in January, alleviating many of the concerns. But there wasn't any racing.

"Until we get around other cars in race conditions, we're really not going to know how much of an effect the reduced spoiler height and the new tire compound will have," said Tony Stewart, who led a race-high 107 laps last Sunday before slipping back to seventh at the end.

"It didn't seem like it was a huge change for us," he said. "Things are going to change constantly, and no matter what changes, you've got to learn to deal with it and learn to make the best of it."

Some drivers have looked forward to the changes because they expect them to make the cars harder to drive, perhaps an edge for the more experienced such as Stewart.



Jeff Gordon and other Nextel Cup drivers face several rule changes when they begin practice at California Speedway on Friday.

"I've lain in bed at night wondering if it will," he said. "We really won't know until we get a little deeper into the season. I'm hoping so."

"Two years ago, we were in situations where track position was everything and you could run 150 laps on a set of tires and be just as fast as a guy with 30 laps on his tires."

Stewart would love to see the competition revert to what it was when he set a slew of rookie records in 1999.

"Back then, you had to really pay attention to your tire wear and not overdrive the car too early," he explained.

The weekend schedule could also play into the hands of the more experienced drivers.

Beginning this week, and at about two-thirds of the remaining tracks, qualifying has been switched from Friday to Saturday. The cars will be impounded by NASCAR immediately after time tests and race the next day with the same tires, chassis setup and fuel load on which they qualified.

"With the new deal you have to think primarily about the race," Kyle Petty said. "So you have to be right where you want to be when it comes time to qualify."

"It's going to be interesting to see how things shake out in the race. You're going to have to make some pretty big decisions by Saturday morning off what you did in a couple of hours of practice Friday afternoon."

Daytona 500 winner Jeff Gordon said Sunday's race is going to tell everyone a lot more about the season than the 500.

"I think you're going to see more lead changes," he said. "I don't know if you're going to see as much side-by-side racing with the new rules. But what you saw at Daytona is not what exists anywhere else other than Talladega."

Clarett back in spotlight in NFL combine

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Some of college football's top running backs were overshadowed in the NFL combine by someone who had just nine college starts and hasn't played in years. Now it's up to Maurice Clarett to live up to the hype.

"I made some mistakes that are obvious to everybody in this room," Clarett said. "And I paid for them."

Clarett was the main topic of conversation Thursday even in this year's deep crop of powerful, fast, multidimensional and tested backs. "I've not seen him play in a couple of years," said Cedric Benson, who ran for more than 5,000 yards and helped Texas win the Rose Bowl. "Regardless of what he's been through, someone is going to like him, someone is going to love him and someone is going to pick him up."

Benson just blended in the crowd with Auburn's Ronnie Brown and Cornell's "Cadillac" Williams — the best running back tandem in the nation's last year — and Frank Gore, who re-established himself as the strong runner who once beat out Willis McGahee for Miami's starting job.

From general managers to coaches, other running backs to a kicker, everyone got questioned about Clarett.

When he arrived in the interview room, all but a handful of reporters huddled around a podium. Gore, sitting near the back of the room, was almost ignored. Asked whether the lack of interest bothered him, Gore responded: "No, no, not at all. I'd be all right if no people were in front of me."



Maurice Clarett felt remorse about his checked past on Thursday, saying in the NFL combine, "I made some mistakes that are obvious to everybody in this room. And I paid for them."

AP

But Clarett must do more than confront his poor public image.

While Benson, Brown, Williams and Gore were proving themselves on the field the past two seasons, Clarett was watching games on television hoping for an opportunity to play in the NFL.

Now he must deal with the consequences of sitting out his sophomore season because of a suspension, losing a court battle to enter the NFL Draft early and accusing Ohio State of NCAA violations.

Clarett weighed 234 pounds, 3 pounds lighter than last year when he was criticized for being out of shape.

When Clarett was asked about his past, he appeared more humble.

The scouts want to see how much he has learned.

A year ago, in his first combine appearance, Clarett didn't work out. This year, in a rare second appearance, Clarett announced he would work out this weekend.

But his colleagues have their own battles this week.

While Benson rushed for 1,867 yards, 19 touchdowns and pushed his way into elite status by averaging 5.6 yards per carry, he has been logged by an October commitment in which he said he'd rather win the Heisman Trophy than beat rival Oklahoma.

That has raised questions about his willingness to be a team player. "It was my childhood dream and I spoke from the heart," he said. "If I could have changed the answer, I would. But it would be a lie."

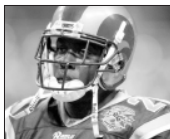
Gore may have an easier case — he just has to prove he's healthy and that he regained his form after season-ending injuries in 2002 and 2003.

As Clinton Portis' backup in 2001, Gore averaged 9.1 yards per carry as a freshman. Then, he missed all of 2002 after hurting his right knee and the second half of the 2003 season after injuring his left knee.

Last year, he rushed for 945 yards rushing and eight touchdowns even though he said he played at a heavier weight than normal.

Gore measured 5-9½, 217 pounds and insisted he's ready to follow the lead of Edgerrin James, Portis and McGahee as Miami's next big NFL back.

"Every team brought in five or six doctors," Gore said. "But it's good, the knee is real strong."



St. Louis Rams RB Marshall Faulk (above), who will back up Steven Jackson this season, will make \$2 million in base salary. He would have made \$6 million.

RB Faulk agrees to pay cut

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Marshall Faulk, now resigned to a backup role with the Rams, has agreed to a pay cut in a restructured contract that will essentially guarantee he'll end his career in St. Louis.

Faulk, an 11-year NFL veteran who turns 32 Saturday, just finished the third year of a seven-year contract. He would have made \$6 million in salary and workout bonuses in 2005.

Under the new four-year deal, Faulk gets a \$1 million signing bonus this year, and will earn \$2 million in both 2005 and 2006, said his agent, Rocky Arceaneux. Arceaneux said the salary would average \$3 million per year over the four years of the deal.

"His motive was not wanting to leave," Arceaneux said. "Obviously with a backup, it's hard to justify making \$7 million a year."

"He had options probably to go somewhere else and maybe start, but he felt at this point in his career he had accomplished enough as a starter and he can contribute as a backup."

Earlier this month, coach Mike Martz said that rookie Steven Jackson would be the starter next season. Jackson was the team's first-round pick in last year's draft.

The new agreement saves about \$1.5 million in salary cap space.

Browns tell DT Warren to stop for deal

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns have given disappointing defensive tackle Gerard Warren permission to seek a trade.

With the team switching to a 3-4 defense next season under new coach Romeo Crennel, the under-achieving Warren, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2001 draft, might not fit into Cleveland's plans.

Crennel and general manager Phil Savage met with Warren earlier this week and told him he had until March 2 to try to work out a deal with another team. Warren is due a roster bonus on that date. Savage said that if Warren can't find a trade suitable for the Browns, he may still remain with the team.

Derek Jeter homecoming might be coming to Boston

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The arena is in downtown Boston, the heart of Red Sox Nation. There couldn't be a bigger instant than to name it after the captain of the hated New York Yankees.

But that's just what Manhattan lawyer Kerry Konrad aims to do next Tuesday after his \$2,325 bid won an eBay auction giving him the one-day naming rights to the FleetCenter.

Konrad's proposed name: the Derek Jeter Center, after the Yankees shortstop.

His winning bid took the FleetCenter brass into a dilemma. "I told him, 'I don't think we can approve that name,'" arena spokesman Jim Delaney said.

He said he would discuss it Friday with FleetCenter president Richard Krockick and a decision would be made by the end of the day. Arena officials have reserved the right to approve or reject a winning bid.

The FleetCenter is home to the Boston Celtics and Bruins. The name became obsolete after Bank of America acquired FleetCenter's Financial last year and the Charlotte, N.C., banking giant opted not to retain the naming rights.

While the arena's owner, Delaware North Co., searches for a long-term partner, it has been offering one-day naming rights on eBay and donating the proceeds to charity.

Paerson wins women's super-G

The Associated Press

SAN SICARIO, Italy — Sweden's Anja Paerson won a super giant slalom Friday to inaugurate the course for next year's Turin Olympics, her first victory in a speed event at the World Cup level.

Paerson boosted her lead in the overall standings and proved her victory in the super-G in last month's world championships was no fluke. She covered the Fratrive Olympic course in 1 minute, 31.85 seconds.

Italy's Isolde Kostner, an early starter, was second, 0.57 seconds behind, for her best result this season. Austria's Michaela Dorfmeister and Slovenia's Tina Muezi tied for third, 0.65 behind.

The top American was Lindsey Kildow, who was 13th.

"I didn't make one big mistake and maybe that was the problem," Kildow said. "Maybe I needed to push my line a bit more."

Paerson leads Janica Kostelic of Croatia 1,061.998 in the overall standings. Kostelic tied for fifth with Hilde Gerg of Germany.

Paerson was behind Kostner at the first checkpoint, then picked up her pace on the bottom section, where several favorites lost time.

"I would never have imagined that I would win the super-G of the world championships and then another in World Cup," Paerson said. "I knew I had a good run, but I didn't think I did anything so special. Something has changed in my style this season and I hope it keeps going."

Kildow, who had two fourth-place finishes in the worlds, was on pace for a top-three finish until losing a big chunk of time on the bottom part of the course.

"I don't know what happened. It's a course that's really, really easy and it's easy to lose time," she said. "I'm pretty disappointed. I don't know if there is any way I can win the title now, but you never know what will happen in the next race."

Federer barely advances in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Top-ranked Roger Federer saved two match points and beat Juan Carlos Ferrero 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6) Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open.

Federer, who won his third straight match in a



AP

The top American in Friday's World Cup super-G in Italy was Lindsey Kildow, who finished 13th.

third-set tiebreaker, will face seventh-seeded Mikhail Youzhny, a 7-5, 6-4 winner over Rainer Schüttler.

"He should have won the match," Federer said of Ferrero. "He had match points before me."

Third-seeded Tim Henman beat Igor Andreev 7-6 (5), 6-1, and will face Ivan Ljubicic, who beat Fernando Verdasco 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6 (8).

Ferrero, the 2001 Dubai champion, led 6-4 in the third-set tiebreaker before Federer saved one match point with a big serve and Ferrero hit the next point long. Federer then closed out the match with a huge serve.

Mauresmo, Sharapova reach semis in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar — Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo defeated Maria Kirilenko of Russia 6-2, 6-2 Thursday to move into the semifinals of the Qatar Open. Mauresmo will face fourth-seeded Alicia Molik of Australia in Friday's semifinals, while Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova will play former top-five player Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia.

Mauresmo, winner of 10 of 12 matches this year, is trying to play in her third consecutive final. She lost in Paris in the Open Gaz de France before beating Venus Williams in the Diamond Games at Antwerp, Belgium, on Sunday.

Second-seeded Sharapova beat Marion Bartoli of France 6-3, 6-2 to reach her third semifinals in as many events this year.

Some won, some lost in flurry of trades

BY SAM SMITH
Chicago Tribune

Once they would have been somewhat of a dream team: Gary Payton and Baron Davis in the backcourt, Antoine Walker and Glenn Robinson at forward and Chris Webber in the middle. Now they're the wishes and hopes of the desperate.

These five former All-Stars were among almost three-dozen players to change teams late Wednesday and Thursday in one of the wildest NBA trading deadline days in recent memory.

Walker, a free agent-to-be, is surprisingly returning to Boston, which he left amid bitter complaints about selfish play from general manager Danny Ainge. To bottom-feeder Atlanta goes Payton, and the over/under on him coming up with a season-ending hamstring injury is about a week. The Hawks also could release him and let him sign with a contender.

Robinson, also a free agent-to-be who hasn't played all season, goes to salary-clearing New Orleans, which dealt Baron Davis to the Warriors.

Webber went to the 76ers late Wednesday. He's expected to fuel their run to the vaunted Atlantic Division title and give them a chance to finish above .500.

Other big names (now lacking big names) among those traded were former All-Stars Tom Gugliotta, Dale Davis and Vin Baker and such solid contributors such as Nazr Mohammed, Malik Hairston, Corliss Williamson, Jiri Welsh, Rodney Rogers, Keith Van Horn, Speedy Claxton and Mo Taylor. And Steve Smith was said to be headed to Miami.

The bigger surprise might be who wasn't traded: The Toronto Raptors, with almost half their roster demanding trades at some point this season, failed in their bid to land a high draft pick and kept Donnell Marshall, Jalen Rose and Eric Williams. Coach Sam Mitchell hasn't said if he intends to fight any of them now that the deadline has passed.

The Milwaukee Bucks retained free agent Michael Redd, making a deal designed to free up money to re-sign him.

And the Portland Trail Blazers held onto free agents Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Damon Stoudamire, perhaps to save coach Maurice Cheeks' sanity.

Here's a look at who came out ahead and who didn't.

Winners

Philadelphia 76ers: Wednesday's late deal for Webber gives them scoring help for Allen Iverson. On Thursday they added Rogers, a favorite of coach Jim O'Brien from their Boston days and another perimeter threat. The Webber deal cost them depth in Williamson and Kenny Thomas, the Rogers deal money. They took on inactive Jamal Mashburn, whose contract runs through next season. But they're out from under Robinson, who goes to the Hornets.

It's a nice short-term move for the 76ers, but Webber is owed

Analysis



The Sacramento Kings will find out if they are a better team without it Chris Webber, who went to Philadelphia in a six-player deal.

more than \$60 million for the next three seasons. And like Iverson, he's a strong personality who likes to monopolize the ball and the team.

There's potential for fireworks. The 76ers play the Kings on Saturday.

Cleveland Cavaliers: They picked up point guard Welsh from the Celtics for a No. 1 pick in 2007. The Cavs believe they can make a serious playoff run and hope Welsh can relieve their perimeter shooting problems.

Milwaukee Bucks: Sure, you thought they'd never overcome the loss of Zondra Hamilton. They also sent guard Mike James to Houston and cleared salary space by sending Van Horn to Dallas for free agent Alan Henderson and Calvin Booth. It should position them to re-sign Redd and retain a nucleus moving forward while adding reserve guard Reese Gaines.

Houston Rockets: James is a good pickup to replace Bob Sura, who is out indefinitely with back problems. The addition of Sura and Jon Barry helped ignite their plodding offense. The Rockets also get guard Moochie Norris in the Taylor deal.

Sacramento Kings: They gave up Webber, the best player in all the deals, but there's that addi-



Guard Baron Davis (1), a two-time All-Star who finished sixth in the NBA in scoring last season, will form a potent backcourt combination with Golden State's Jason Richardson.

tion-by-subtraction thing. With Webber the Kings were 38-31 the last two regular seasons. Without him they were 51-16. Team insiders say Webber's return slowed down the Kings last season after they'd been in first place much of the season, and he was overly critical of certain teammates, most notably Peja Stojakovic.

The Kings are a different team with Wade Davis and Doug Christie gone and Bobby Jackson hurt again. They want to build around Stojakovic, Mike Bibby and Brad Miller without Webber dominating things. Thomas and Williamson are role players who should help.

San Antonio Spurs: Not that they need to get better, but Mohammed is a nice pickup as a backup big man. He's having his

best season, and they were almost ready to pay a team to take Rose's contract, which has four years and more than \$27 million left in this season. The Spurs give up their 2006 No. 1 and the Suns' No. 1 this year.

Losers

Boston Celtics: It's never quite clear what they're doing. They hated Walker and his game, so they got him back with two months left on his contract. They also traded both their point guards, Payton and Welsh, in order to play rookie Delonte West? Gugliotta and Michael Stewart went to Atlanta with Payton for Walker. The Hawks also get a No. 1 pick.

New York Knicks: It may be the way to go, but they'll now have a way to go. They took on more than \$30 million in salary again — wouldn't you like to work there? — but also seemed to start a commitment to rebuilding through the draft by acquiring picks, though not great ones. They get the Suns' No. 1 for this season (Phoenix has the Bulls' from the Luol Deng trade) and the Suns' for next season. They get two more undersized power forwards in Taylor and Rose and give up starting center Mohammed and point guard Norris.

Dallas Mavericks: Van Horn seems like a decent pickup for Henderson and Booth, who rarely play. But Van Horn, with a \$16 million salary next season, recently returned from an ankle injury and doctors are limiting him to 15 minutes a game. Just what Dallas needs: another shooter who doesn't defend. They do this and couldn't afford to pay Steve Nash?

NBA deadline deals Wednesday

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Acquired F Chris Webber from the Sacramento Kings for F Brian Skinner, Jimmy Thomas and F Corliss Williamson.

Thursday

BOSTON CELTICS—Traded G Jiri Welsh to Cleveland for a 2007 first-round draft pick. Traded G Gary Payton, F Tom Gugliotta and C Michael Stewart to Atlanta for F Antoine Walker and a first-round draft pick.

DENVER NUGGETS—Traded F Nikoloz Tskitishvili and F Rodney White to Golden State for F Eduardo Najera, G Luis Flores and a first-round draft pick. Speedy Claxton and F Dale Davis to New Orleans for G Baron Davis.

MIAMI HEAT—Acquired C Steve Smith from Charlotte for F Malik Allen and cash considerations.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Traded G Mike James and C Zondra Hamilton to Houston for F Brian Skinner and a 2007 second-round draft pick. Traded F Keith Van Horn to the Atlanta Hawks for C Calvin Booth and cash.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Traded Chaar Mohammed and G Jamison Brewer to San Antonio for F Malik Rose and a 2005 and a 2006 first-round draft pick. Traded C Vin Baker and C Moochie Norris to Houston for F Maurice Taylor.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Traded F Glenn Robinson to New Orleans for F Jamal Mashburn and F Rodney Rogers.



Jiri Welsh, who was acquired by the Cleveland Cavaliers for a 2007 first-round draft pick to the Boston Celtics, will be counted on to help the Cavs' outside game.

Golden State Warriors: Perennial back and attitude problems make Baron Davis a huge risk. A backcourt with him and Jason Richardson seems explosive, if not defensive-minded. But this will almost certainly lead to a trade of Mike Dunleavy for a role-playing big man because they have so many players on large long-term contracts and so few inside players.

Davis didn't exactly endear himself to his last colleague-to-pros coach, Tim Flory. The Warriors also had to deal Eduardo Najera's long-term contract to Denver to save money and get draft busts Nikoloz Tskitishvili and Rodney White.

New Orleans Hornets: Mardi Gras fireworks are over, so they blew up the team. They're dumping salary to stay in business by getting rid of Davis and Rogers, and Jamaal Magloire may be next when he returns from injury. They also save some money getting rid of Mashburn's contract, but they get the expiring \$12 million deal of Big Dog Robinson, plus Claxton and Dale Davis from the Warriors.



Atlanta Hawks: Antoine Walker, right, admires his former jersey while joking with Boston Celtics rookie Al Jefferson in Boston on Jan. 14. Walker, who played in Boston for seven seasons, is going back after the Celtics traded Gary Payton, Tom Gugliotta and Michael Stewart to Atlanta on Thursday. The Hawks will also get a first-round draft choice.

SPORTS



Schilling tests ankle, throws off mound for first time since winning Game 2 of Series, Page 25

Michigan St. snaps streak

Spartans beat Badgers, win first vs. ranked foe in 13 tries

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Alan Anderson got choked up — and it had nothing to do with earning a spot in Michigan State's record books.

Anderson didn't miss and scored a career-high 28 points to lead the 10th-ranked Spartans to a 77-64 victory over No. 20 Wisconsin on Thursday.

He was 10-for-10 from the field and 7-for-7 from the line, becoming the fourth Michigan State player to take at least 10 shots without missing.

But the senior forward paused and stammered as he spoke after the game because the Spartans snapped a 12-game losing streak against ranked opponents and a six-game skid against Wisconsin.

"It was our last chance against those guys," Anderson said.

"This one was big, man. They took our home-winning streak from us. They took a couple of championships, too. That's why we were so emotional."

The Spartans (20-4, 11-2 Big Ten) have won 10 of 11 since losing to the Badgers on Jan. 16, winning their past nine by double digits.

Those lopsided victories didn't quiet their critics because of the streak against ranked opponents since the regional finals of the 2003 NCAA tournament.



AP

Alan Anderson led the Spartans, scoring a career-high 28 points by going 10-for-10 from the field and 7-for-7 from the line.

"I don't think I could be happier for our players," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said.

"This has been hard on them. It wasn't like they conquered the world, but we beat a good team soundly."

Wisconsin's Alando Tucker had 18 points, Mike Wilkinson scored 16 points and reserve Zach Morley added 11.

The Badgers (17-7, 8-5) have lost three of five, allowing Indiana to pull into a third-place tie in the Big Ten standings.

"We don't like to say it happens at Wisconsin, but they outworked us," Tucker said.

The Spartans beat Wisconsin for the first time since Feb. 27, 2001 — thanks to Anderson.

Anderson, whose previous career high was 18 points, scored 11 straight points early in the first half. His one-man spurt gave Michigan State an 11-point lead, which it maintained easily.

"He did a great job of penetrating and taking care of business around the basket," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said.

"You name it, he did it." Anderson matched a field-goal percentage mark at Michigan State with three other players. Ron Charles made all 12 of his shots in a game in 1980 while Carlton Valentine (1986) and Bob Chapman (1977) both went 11-for-11.

SEE SPARTANS ON PAGE 26



AP

Michigan State's Kelvin Torbert, top, grabs a rebound against Wisconsin's Clayton Hanson, as Michigan State's Matt Trannon, right, watches on Thursday night in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State won 77-64.

Woods wins 13th consecutive match as Match Play Championship begins at wet La Costa

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Veteran RB Faulk willing to accept pay cut, backup role to remain with Rams

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Which teams made the best deals before the NBA trade deadline?

Page 31

Kings fall to Mavericks in first game since trading Webber Page 30